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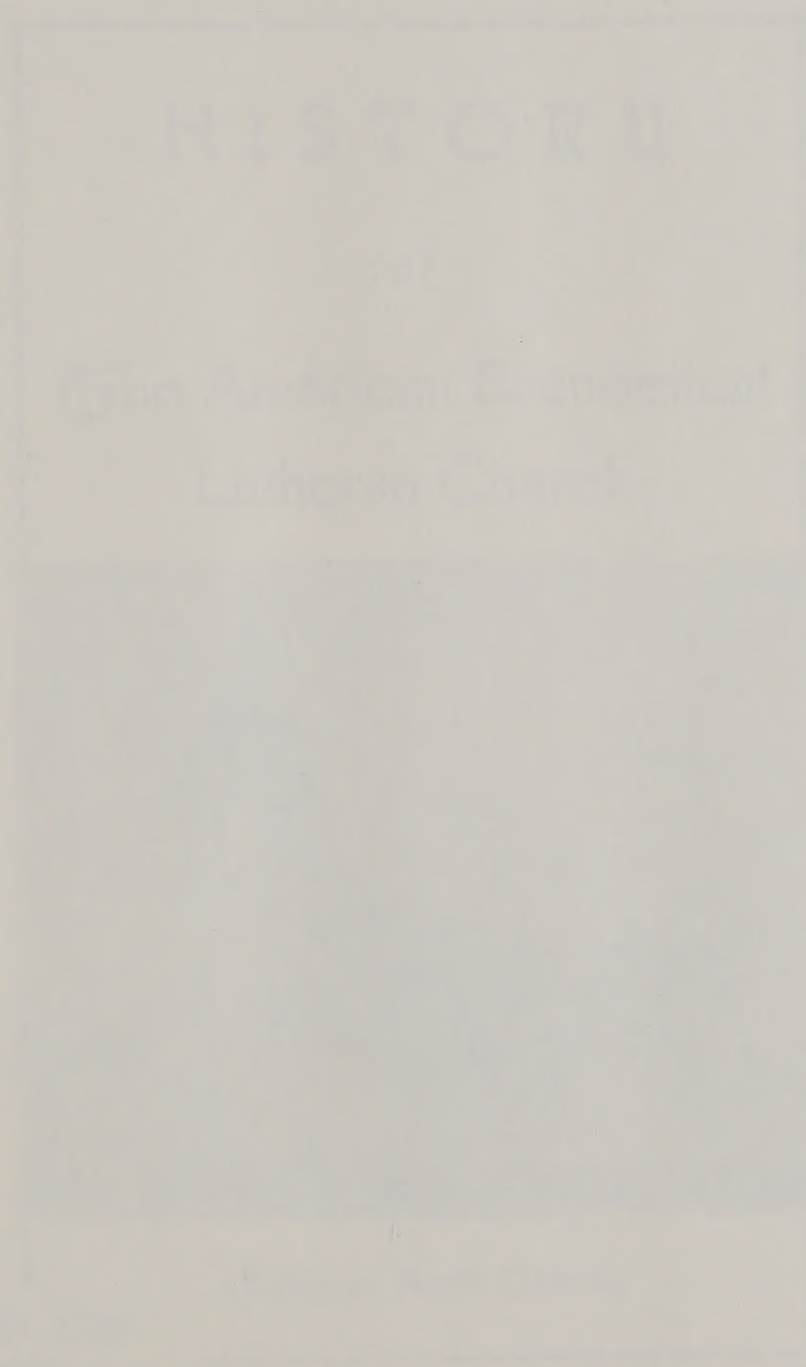
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History of the American
Evangelical Lutheran Church



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A black and white photograph of a small, white, wooden church with a steeple. The church has a dark roof, a small arched window above the entrance, and several tall, narrow windows. A small cross is on top of the steeple. A set of stairs leads up to the entrance.

1951

HISTORY

of

The American Evangelical Lutheran Church



of Cedar North Dakota

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INTRODUCTION

The history of the American Lutheran Church of Oakes, N. D., since its organization in 1940 covers a period of eleven years. As the church records for this period are quite complete, the history of this congregation is therefore made from these records.

The American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes, being an amalgamation of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes and of the Salem Lutheran Church of Oakes, it is important that the history of those congregations while they existed be preserved. This is of special interest to those members of the congregation that have lived here and were born here.

The pioneers of this community who come directly here from Norway and from Sweden or from neighboring states whereto they had first immigrated settled on homesteads here in the early eighties and they then almost immediately organized Lutheran congregations. Because of the early mode of conveyance being walking and later driving with oxen and horses, the area of each congregation became more or less the area of a township.

During the eighties and nineties which was a period of drought, privation and hardships, the pastors who served were faithful workers and did not forsake their calling. Like the pioneer members they served, most of them have gone to their rest and reward — Eternal Life.

With the assistance of the members of the committee, the major part of the work of gathering the Salem Lutheran congregation history and the American Lutheran history was assigned to Mrs. Esther Hazel, and those of early congregations which later became the First Lutheran congregation of Oakes was assigned to Henry Frojen. The committee has met approximately once a month except in January, to coordinate and assist in its completion. Much more could have been included, but trust that it covers the history of the Lutheran church work from the time of the settlement of this area.

THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OAKES Committee on Church History

REV. R. C. CARTFORD, Pastor
MRS. ESTHER WESTERMAN, Sec.
MISS ANNA MELBY, Treas.
MRS. ESTHER HAZEL
CLIFFORD SANDERS
ADOLPH M. DAHLBECK
HENRY C. FROJEN, Chairman

27357

Jan. 31, 1955
Henry C. Frojen



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PERIOD 1883-1893

CHAPTER 1.—OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (Norway Twp.)

The following is a brief history of the first organized congregation in the area west of Oakes which included all of Norway (now Clement), part of Yorktown, Wright, James River Valley and Bear Creek Townships, as gathered from the records of the Secretary. (Reference also made from the reorganized Clement Our Savior's Lutheran congregation 60th anniversary in 1944.)

The first organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was, according to the Secretary's record, by Rev. N. A. Ofstedal in July, 1884. The following were the first officers: Chr. Gorder, Secretary; A. Markuson, Treasurer; Herman Pedersen, C. C. Bergan and Iver Olson, Trustees. The following charter members signed the Constitution: (1) Andrew Markuson, (2) Chris Gorder, (3) Iver Olson, (4) H. A. Nevramon, (5) Herman Pedersen, (6) Chr. Olson, (7) Ole T. Hanson, (8) Chris Hansen Frojen, (9) C. C. Bergan, (10) P. O. Hofaas, (11) Lars Silberg, (12) Ole K. Hanson, (13) Ole Noerr, (14) Martin Noerr, (15) Anton Bjur, (16) Andrew Holm, (17) Peder A. Johnson, (18) Gilbert Hove.

The first annual meeting was held Nov. 30, 1885 at the then town of Hudson (2 miles west and 3 miles south from Oakes). Rev. Rogne, succeeding Rev. Ofstedal, was chairman. Chr. Gorder was Secretary. (It may be noted here that Oakes was not in existence and there were no railroads or towns nearer than Ellendale, and Columbia, S. D.) At this meeting the question of which hymn book to use was raised and it was decided that final decision be made by Easter, 1886. The following year annual meeting was held Nov. 10, 1886 at the home of Mary Bergan. New members were Arne Pedersen, Nikolay Edwardson, Hans Gronbeck and families. H. Nevramon was elected Trustee and also song leader. At this meeting it was decided to use the "Synode Hymn Book." The next annual meeting was held May 7, 1887 at the school house by John Morgan. B. Nelson and wife became members. A special meeting was held Sept. 4, 1887 to decide whether this congregation should continue to be served by a Pastor from Ellendale or should join with the James River Valley congregation at Glover, include the area south of LaMoure, and call a new Pastor for this area so enlarged. A joint meeting of delegates selected from each area to meet at the H. Gronbeck school house.

Most of the settlers and "homesteaders" came here during the years 1883 and 1884. They were young and optimistic, most of them having immigrated from Norway or Sweden, or coming from the adjoining states of Minnesota and Wisconsin, seeking a home and a farm. They came here with empty hands and very little money, so their first task was to complete the filing on the land they chose and then to build a sod house and break up the sod to seed a few acres of grain, mostly wheat. Lumber had to be gotten from Ellendale or LaMoure and the means of transportation was with oxen, although horses became more in use as time went on. They had faith in the future. Most of them left homes in the countries they came from where their parents were devoted church-going people. Many were thus reared and confirmed there, accordingly it became an important matter for these newcomers to become interested in church work though the means were not avail-

able. Homes and school houses (some were sod houses) were small, so the services were mostly in the summer time. Perhaps once a month services were held. Rev. E. T. Rogne, affiliated with the "Norske Synode," was sent by the Home Mission to Ellendale, and from there served this area as much as he could. Money was scarce and with no "Mission Fund" for a reserve, the work of the pastor became hard and services were few and far between. Most of the members had their "Huspostile" or sermon-book they brought with them along with their Bibles, usually the parting gift from their parents. Winters were extremely hard and there were no section line roads or fences but just the prairie with here and there a sod house. Under these settings and circumstances, in the winter of 1888 a brother of Swan Anderson, Isaac, went to Oakes for mail. A severe blizzard came up and he got lost and froze to death. (The body was found later not very far from the sod house.) A cemetery or burial place became necessary. A congregational meeting was held Feb. 24, 1888 at the Arnt Jacobson home. The matter of establishing or locating a cemetery was to be considered. Swan Johnson offered to donate three acres for this purpose east of his home and north of the Soo Railroad right of way, on condition that the congregation fence around it and later a church to be located there. A committee was chosen to measure out and locate the plot. Thus, Isaac Anderson, the victim of the terrible Jan. 12, 1888 blizzard became the first to be buried there and in Norway (now Clement) township. It may be said here, too, that Peder T. Pedersen was the first baby born and that Arne and Mrs. Pedersen were the first to be married. At this meeting of the congregation, Rev. Rogne told the congregation it would be hard for him to continue serving the congregation from Ellendale and that they should look forward to calling another pastor. Accordingly, and in compliance with the proceedings of Sept. 4, 1887 meeting, the next congregational meeting was held at the John Morgan school house May 5, 1888, when a joint meeting of the delegates from James River Valley congregation (Glover) and Our Savior's congregation was held. The following delegates came: from Our Savior's, Lewis Nelson, Andrew Markusson and Herman Pedersen; Theodore Johnson from LaMoure Valley settlers, and Hans Eliason, Abel Johnson and Andrew Mork from James River Valley (Glover.) The question was the calling of another pastor and from which school, Northfield or Augsburg. Apparently no decision was made at this meeting.

The following year, March 20, 1889 the following new members were accepted: Lewis Nelson, John Nelson, Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Elen Holt, John Johnson, John Morgan, Adolph Lee, August Larson, Nikolai Gronbeck, Henry Gronbeck and their families. At this meeting the congregation unanimously called Pastor J. D. Swalestuen for a salary of \$100 per year.

The next meeting was held in the Morgan school house Nov. 3, 1889, (School No. 1) after service, Rev. J. D. Swalestuen, chairman, regarding joining or uniting with James River Valley and St. Ansgar (Wright) congregations. Four committees were appointed. Serving on the first committee were Arne Pedersen, Herman Pedersen, John Nilson, Swan Johnson, Louis Nilson and John Morgan. This committee was to work the James River Valley congregation. Second committee: Andrew Markuson, Adolph Lee and Nikolai Edwardson to work in St. Ansgar's.

Third committee: Christian Gorder and Guldbrand Hove to work around Oakes, and the fourth committee, Bernt Nilson and Ole Hanson to work in Yorktown. The committees to meet at Glover Dec. 4, 1889.

The reason for getting these newly organized areas together was to have a local pastor residing in the community rather than being served from Ellendale and only once a month service. Many favored the "Norske Synode," some United or Northfield, some the Free Church or Augsburg, and others the Hauges Synod and Redwing (Seminary.) Perhaps the majority coming from Norway were the followers and admirers of Hans Nilson Hauge, the missionary reformer and evangelist. It was with this background that the meeting scheduled for Glover Dec. 4, 1889 was rescheduled and postponed to Dec. 13, 1889 at Oakes. At this meeting there were delegates from Our Savior's, St. Ansgar's, James River Valley and Oakes delegates. E. O. Ulness was elected chairman, O. A. Olson, vice chairman, and Chris Gorder, secretary. There were 15 delegates. There was considerable discussion as to which one of the three church branches or Synods (some thought of as Northfield, Augsburg and Hauge's Red Wing.) Two candidates were voted on: Rev. J. D. Swalestuen and Rev. G. Westerlund. The former received 12 votes and the latter 3, of the delegates present. Accordingly, Rev. J. D. Swalestuen was called to be the pastor of the enlarged area. He served until July, 1892 when Rev. P. T. Stensaas was called and served Our Savior's congregation, James River Valley at Glover and St. Ansgar's (Wright.) The years 1892 and 1893 were dry and it became hard to get money for support of the church. Rev. Stensaas left in 1893 and was succeeded by Rev. Thueland who continued for a while, but these were strenuous times, many moved away and those that continued found it hard to make the necessary contributions for the work of the church.

CHAPTER 1—REORGANIZED OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (United Synod) of Clement

The Our Savior's Lutheran congregation of Clement (rural) being a sister congregation of the Oakes parish (6 miles west and 2 miles north of Oakes) having its past history much in common with the early history of our former congregations, the following excerpt from the 60th anniversary history is inserted as of interest mutually and to complete the history of the area.

Rev. J. H. Lindland while residing at Ellendale and serving the local congregations there, took up the work of serving the Clement congregation in 1887, and on Jan. 16, 1898, at the John Morgan home he reorganized the congregation. A constitution was passed upon, retaining the name of the old congregation. The following men signed the constitution: Christian Gorder, Gilbert Hove, Nick Edwardson, Herman Pedersen, John Nilson, Iver C. Jacobson, Arnt Jacobson, Dithlef Johnson, Ingo'f Hanson, Martin J. Morgan, John Morgan, Jorgen Morgan, Arne Pedersen, John Atlo, Hans Johnson, Magnus Anderson, August Larson and John Hove. They chose the following men for officers: Herman Pedersen, secretary; Arne Pedersen, Christian Gorder and John Morgan, trustees; John Nilson, treasurer. Herman Pedersen served as secretary of the congregation for about 25 years. They decided to build

a church, locating on the NW¼ of Sec. 16, where a site was secured from the School Land Department. O. H. Frojen was engaged to assist. The plans provided for a building 28 ft. x 40 ft. x 14 ft. The building committee consisted of Nick Edwardson, Arnt Jacobson and Herman Pedersen. O. H. Frojen was chosen as foreman for the building of the church at \$2.50 per day. Rev. Lindland received in the neighborhood of \$100 per year for his salary. He received the official call from the congregation in 1899. In 1904 he moved from Ellendale to Oakes, and organized the Ebenezer congregation in Oakes in 1906. Rev. Lindland was a man of Faith. He thought of Missions all the time. He saved and got along with little. He was hardy and strong even down to declining years. There is no one who would want to take any credit away from him. His work was one of persistence. His was also a life of prayer and even after he discontinued as the pastor, he helped to see that the "Mission" was taken care of and that the parochial school was conducted. With the work of Rev. Lindland the spiritual life of the congregation also awakened, but as Norwegian faded away from the speech and thinking, his work as pastor was completed in 1921, when the Ebenezer congregation in Oakes joined with others to unite in the First Lutheran congregation, the Synods having united in 1917. (The above from page 21 of 60th anniversary history.) Also on page 19 the following: On the records of Our Savior's congregation which Rev. Lindland and others served so many years, there are, since 1892, a total of 226 baptisms, 27 weddings, 126 confirmed and 77 burials.

CHAPTER 1—EBENEZER LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

(United Synod) of Oakes

The Ebenezer Lutheran congregation was organized by Rev. J. H. Lindland March 15, 1904 with thirteen members. The first officers were O. C. Berger, secretary; Carl Bjerklin, treasurer; Einar Kjersem, Krist Woltt, T. M. Thompson, trustees. (The secretary's record for this congregation appears to have been lost, therefore records are not available.)

The following is contributed by Mrs. Jennie Sanders, one of the charter members of the congregation: "Rev. J. H. Lindland moved to Oakes from Ellendale in the spring of 1904 with his wife and two small girls so he could be closer to his work for Our Savior's church in Clement. He used to make the trip on bicycle at times and later by horse and buggy. The Swedish Lutheran church was rented for 50 cents a Sunday. That fall Mrs. Lindland died leaving him with the two small girls. He took the body to Menomonie, Wisconsin. That winter we did not have a minister as he stayed in Wisconsin with his two little girls. In March he came back and took up his work where he left off. The summer of 1906 he married Jensine Erickson, superintendent of an orphanage in Beloit, Iowa. She became and was superintendent of Sunday school for fifteen years in succession. She also got Ladies Aid started.

"In the winter of 1908 Rev. Lindland got the congregation interested jointly with the Hauges (Rev. Moe's) congregation in buying the old Methodist church building and he personally, with a salary less than \$300, gave \$100 towards buying it. We gave \$25 and probably had to borrow that. Everyone gave, if only a little. At the start and for quite

a while he was fireman, janitor, and minister. The congregations shared the use of the church on alternate Sundays. This arrangement continued until in 1921 when the two congregations joined to form the First Lutheran church."

(The following is contributed by Mrs. Agnes Locken and Lydia Lindland): "The Ebenezer congregation was organized in Carl Bjerklin's home with only a dozen families joining. They were all intent on forming a congregation and met at the various homes at first for services. After we built our house we had services in our front room which seemed like a large place in those days. Then we rented the Swedish church as we became more in number and finally the Hauges and we bought the old Methodist church jointly, and how happy we all were to have a big house to worship in.

"In 1906 the Ladies Aid was organized, with the following membership: Mrs. Lindland, president, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Carl Bjerklin, Mrs. Lars Wold, Mrs. Ole Paulson, Mrs. Albert Romstad, Mrs. Ole Berger, Mrs. Melby, Mrs. Hans Johnson, Mrs. Anders Bong, and Mrs. Ole Syverson."

CHAPTER 1—OUR SAVIOR'S AND EBENEZER LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

Confirmation classes and confirmands from 1909 to 1921

By Rev. J. H. Lindland, Pastor

- 1909—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Bennie Frojen, Albert Westergaard and Anna Melby.
- 1912—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Frithjof Bernard Pedersen, Knud Peder Melby, Gunnor Helen Wold, Clara A. Selvaag and Viola Luella Fladager.
- 1914—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Arne Melby, Thore Bjerklin, Otto Jorgen Sveen, Jens Odin Stene, Agnes Wold, Caroline R. Erickson, Agnes G. Lindland, Julia Bessie Sveen.
- 1917—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. James Ervin Olsen, Lydia Lindland, Clara G. Sanders, Emma G. Erickson, Hildur M. Johnson.
- 1918—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Melvin P. Sommerland, Charley S. Sommerland.
- 1919—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Oswald O. Barsten, William T. Johnson, Johan Alfred Erickson, Bertha Ingela Barsten, Esther Geneva Moe, Christine M. I. Sanders.
- 1921—Rev. J. H. Lindland, pastor. Elmer Johannes Olsen, Clifford Lowery Sanders, Olga Josephine Johnson and Mabel Wollt.

PERIOD 1893-1921

CHAPTER 2—NORWAY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Hauge Synod) (Norway Township)

In the brief history of Our Savior's Lutheran church congregation during the years 1883 to 1893 as related in the previous chapter, an attempt was made to get together into one church organization, with a resident pastor, instead of being served from Ellendale, as was being done with services approximately once a month, and perhaps not that

often during the winter months. It was about this time in 1893 that there were in Wright (St. Ansgar) and Norway township a group who were members of Our Savior's congregation, and most of whom were admirers of the great missionary-reformer Hans Nilson Hauge of Norway. It therefore became natural for this group to gather and organize the Norway Evangelical Lutheran church congregation, and to call its pastor from the Hauges Synod and its Seminary at Red Wing, Minn.

In the minutes of the secretary's record, it states that the organizational meeting was held April 13, 1893, at School No. 2 (called the Gronbeck school house). The following officers were elected: Chairman, Hans Nevramon; secretary, Iver Olson; treasurer, Alex Swanson. Deacons or Elders, Olai Frojen and H. Nevramon; Trustees, Ed Rasmussen, C. H. Frojen and Iver Olson. Invitation was made to Wright and Glover. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and those signing as charter members were Olai Frojen, Kristen Frojen, Hans Nevramon, Alexander Swanson, Edward Rasmussen, Iver Olson and Haktor Moe.

The first annual congregational meeting was held at the Olai Frojen home (no date) and later in the C. H. Frojen home Jan. 24, 1894, when the constitution was approved. Rev. Moe who had first served as student pastor was now called as the pastor, later also for that of the St. Ansgar (Wright Twp.) and for the James River Valley congregation at Glover. A parsonage was built at Oakes jointly by the Norway, St. Ansgar's and (newly organized) Grue congregation (Yorktown) for the pastor. In about 1894-5 the membership numbered 67 souls in the Norway congregation, being the following families: Edward Rasmussen, Alex Swanson, Hans Nevramon, Kristen Frojen, Olai Frojen, Iver Olson, Peter C. Pedersen, Abel Johnson, Chris Monson, Anders Olderness, Nils Hustad, Hans Gronbeck, Henry Gronbeck and John Erickson.

The Grue Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Yorktown Twp., was also organized about this time and was also affiliated with the Hauges Synod and joined in calling Rev. Moe as pastor. Services in these congregations were held in the homes and in school houses. In the spring or summer parochial school was also held in the school houses and sometimes in homes. Because of distances and the mode of transportation, either walking or by horses and buggy which yet many farmers did not have, the area became small accordingly as compared with the automobile transportation of today.

In the year 1900 Rev. Moe moved to Canada and Rev. K. L. Kleveland was called as pastor for these congregations. According to the record of the secretary, the salary Rev. Kleveland received was \$50 for the year. He served the three local congregations and one at Kulm and one at Rutland. Like Rev. Moe had been, Rev. Kleveland was a true and faithful worker in God's Kingdom and his church, the congregations.

At the annual meeting of the congregation of Jan. 3, 1902, H. Nevramon was named president; Ed Rasmussen, secretary, and Nils Johnson, treasurer; trustees, J. Uglestad, Anders Olderness and Chris Monson. At the next annual meeting, Soren Lindseth and Klaus Storvig were named trustees.

At a congregational meeting March 17, 1893 at the Edward Rasmussen home, Hans Nevramon was delegated to contact Gust Hample concerning arrangements for use of the Oakes church. (This church

building was owned by the Free Mission Friends; Gustav Hample being one of the trustees).

At a special congregational meeting Aug. 10, 1907, Rev. Kleve and having moved, Rev. H. Moe was called as pastor. On May 10, 1908 a building committee consisting of Rev. H. Moe, Soren Lindseth and Iver Olson met with a committee from the Ebenezer congregation and agreed to jointly build or buy a church building, that a fund of \$300 be raised and that there should be no debt. In October, 1903, the Norway Evangelical Lutheran congregation and the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran congregation jointly purchased the former Methodist church building located on and including Lot 6, Block 13, O. P. of Oakes, for the sum of \$1,650.00 and this church building was used alternate Sundays or weeks by the two congregations. At the April 2, 1910 congregational meeting it was decided to insure the half interest in the church building for \$1,000 and the parsonage for \$1,500. The congregation continued with increased membership.

In 1917 the Norwegian Synod, United Synod and Hauges Synod united into the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. After this union of the Synods, in those communities and cities where there were two or more congregations of the former Synods, it became the order of the day for those congregations to unite. As the English language became more in use by the pastors, union became almost automatic and it was easy to consolidate.

Accordingly a special meeting of the congregation was held March 1, 1921 and also on March 11, 1921. Three delegates were named to represent this congregation, namely, Ed Rasmussen, P. J. Aasen and Hjalmer Anderson. These delegates met on March 16 with delegates from the three other congregations as follows: From Ebenezer congregation, O. Olafson, Ole Sanders and Albert Romstad; from Our Savior's congregation (Clement), Henry Gronbeck, Martin Morgan and Swan Johnson; from Grue congregation, John Benson and John Johnson. G. A. Larson was elected chairman. The chairman announced that the purpose of the meeting was for the congregations to unite and that both Rev. Lindland and Rev. Moe resign and a new pastor be called, to which both pastors agreed. Thus the Grue, Norway, and Ebenezer groups united and a new congregation organized with the name of First Lutheran Church of Oakes. Our Savior's Lutheran church congregation of Clement did not join, but agreed to continue to call pastor jointly. The English language was used regularly; for a time Norwegian services were held once a month.

Ladies Aid: Rev. H. Moe after organizing the Norway Evangelical Lutheran congregation, organized an Aid for Norway parish, the members being residents on farms just west of Oakes. The charter members were: Mrs. Alex Swanson, president; Mrs. Ed Rasmussen, treasurer; Mrs. Iver Olson, Mrs. Hans Eliason, Mrs. Ane Olson; Mrs. Olai Frojen, secretary; Mrs. Hans Nevramon, Mrs. Peter Peterson, Miss Nanda Swanson and Mrs. Chris Frojen. This was organized in 1895.

In 1900 Rev. H. Moe organized a Ladies Aid of the Norway congregation in the town of Oakes. The charter members were: Mrs. Caroline Nelson, president; Mrs. Lars Wold, Miss Anna Romstad, Mrs. H. Moe, Mrs. Solbakken, Mrs. Mary Swanson, Mrs. John Olson, Mrs. Soren Lindseth, Mrs. Charlie Lind, Mrs. Elling Lindseth and Mrs. J. Uglestad.

PERIOD 1898-1921

CHAPTER 2—THE GRUE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The following residents living in the western part of Clement and in Yorktown townships, met Feb. 3, 1898 for the purpose of organizing the above named congregation and adopting a constitution. Rev. Haktor Moe was called as pastor of the congregation and the following were elected officers: President and chairman, Ben Nelson; secretary, John Johnson; treasurer, August Vernlund, and for trustees, Andrew Johnson, Ole H. Enger and Ole Erickson. The names of the charter members were: B. L. Nelson, Ole H. Enger, Andrew Johnson, Louis Anderson, Osval Kveset, Kristian Kveset, August Vernlund, Ole Erickson, Jim P. Johnson, Erik C. Holm, John Benson, Karl Nelson, John Johnson, Soren Holm, Arne Hogenson, Ole Nelson, Julius Hogenson, John Tollefson, Jorgen Pedersen and Nels Karlson, numbering twenty members. The pastor's salary was to be \$60 per year and the pastor to conduct twelve services during the year. Services were held in the Enger and Lee school houses and occasionally in the homes of the members.

At the annual meeting of the congregation Nov. 9, 1900, Rev. Moe having moved away, the congregation called, jointly with the Norway congregation, Rev. K. L. Kleveland for pastor at a salary of \$50 per year. At the annual meeting of the congregation Dec. 2, 1902, the treasurer showed \$64.64 received by the congregation, the pastor's salary was \$50 leaving a balance of \$16.64 in the treasury. For chairman or president was chosen John Johnson; secretary, B. L. Nelson; treasurer, August Vernlund; for trustee, Carl Nelson; for Sunday school teachers, B. L. Nelson and John Johnson were appointed. At the eighth annual congregational meeting Dec. 13, 1905 the following new members were accepted: Jorgen Pedersen, Nels Karlson and John Tollefson and their families. The following officers were elected: Trustee, Nils Karlson; president, John Johnson; secretary, B. L. Nelson; treasurer, Karl Nelson; deacon or elder, John Johnson; and for school committee, Karl Nelson, Ole Erickson and John Tollefson. That one month parochial school be held. For Sunday school teachers, Karl Nelson, Mrs. Karl Nelson, Mabel Nelson, Ben Johnson and Nils Karlson were appointed. At the congregational meeting Dec. 10, 1907, B. L. Nelson, Karl Nelson and Julius Hogenson resigned from the congregation because they had moved to Wright township and found it inconvenient to continue in the Grue congregation. Rev. K. L. Kleveland having resigned and left, Rev. Moe was called jointly with the Norway congregation (Clement) for pastor.

At the twenty-first annual congregational meeting October 10, 1908, for president and treasurer, John Johnson; for secretary, Mrs. Enger; for trustee, Clarence Enger, and for deacon or elder, J. Benson. Thus continued until joining with the First Lutheran congregation of Oakes in 1921. (See following chapter).

Two of the original members of this congregation are still living, 1951. Mrs. Carl Hoybak, living on the family homestead and farm $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Oakes. She was 90 years of age Dec. 9, 1951. Her children have all been confirmed and are listed in the various confirmation classes. The other member is Karl Nelson who was a charter member of the Grue congregation organized in 1898 and was active until 1900

when he moved to Wright township and became a member of the St. Ansgar congregation there. He will be 89 years of age in January, 1952. He has been a very faithful and outstanding worker in the church.

CHAPTER 2—THE JAMES RIVER VALLEY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF GLOVER

The above named congregation was organized in 1895 by Rev. H. Moe (the secretary record appears to have been lost) with the following membership: O. A. Olson, Abel Johnson, Chris Monson, Elling Jensen, Nils Hustad, John Frojen, John Larson, Tom Ulness, Frederick Olson, Klaus Storvik, Ole Amundson, Anders Olderness, Andreas Mork Anderson, Ed Iverson, A. Fladager, Andrew Howe, Lars Olson, P. Bergstrom, John Larson.

Services were usually held in the Glover school house. During the summer months, Rev. Moe conducted parochial school.

About the same time a Ladies Aid was organized with the following membership: Mrs. O. A. Olson, Mrs. Abel Johnson, Mrs. Chris Monson (she was the first president), Mrs. Elling Jensen, Mrs. Nils Hustad, Mrs. John Frojen, Mrs. John Larson, Mrs. Tom Ulness, Mrs. Fred Olson, Mrs. Marit Iverson, Mrs. Klaus Storvik, Mrs. Amundson, Mrs. Anders Olderness, Mrs. Andrew (Mork) Anderson, Mrs. Ed Iverson, Mrs. Solberg, Mrs. Fladager, Mrs. Carrie Howe, Mrs. John Larson.

CHAPTER 2—NORWAY, GRUE AND JAMES RIVER VALLEY LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

Confirmation classes and confirmands from 1895 to 1921 By Pastors Moe and Kleveland

- 1895—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Hans Gronbeck, Ottelius Gronbeck, Toris Swanson, Johanna Johnson, Eugenia Karolina Nelson, Josefina Ottelia Johnsen and Amanda Swanson.
- 1896—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Carl Oscar Ulness.
- 1897—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Elizabeth Amundsen, Emma Pernella Johnson, Adolphine Emelia Peterson, Inga Mariea Holm.
- 1898—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Julia Orilia Olsen, Carrie Lilly Nelson, Arthur W. Christensen, Theodore Herbrandsen, Ole Iverson, Hilda Berg, Karen Hansen, Lauris S. Olsen, Olga Mathilda Solberg, Oline Iverson, John B. Gronbeck, Karsten Johnson, Henry Enger, Emma Clarine Erickson, Inga Johanna Christensen, Clara Otilia Christensen.
- 1899—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Einer Olsen, Elise Marie Howe.
- 1900—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Anna M. Christensen, Henny Marie Gronbeck, Maren E. Anderson, Bernhard T. Sten, Minnie J. Johnson, Emma Christensen, Selma L. Johnson, Minnie C. Larson, Hilda J. Erickson, Betsey Benson, Inga Johnson, Tilda Benson.
- 1901—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Mathilda C. Monson, Rosa B. Peterson, Peter M. Peterson, Gustava S. Pedersen and John M. Iverson.
- 1902—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Alice Marie Olson, Lein Rasmussen, Thomas Gronbeck, Inga K. Jacobson, Hans Frojen, Emelia E. Bergstrom, Anton S. Bergstrom.

- 1903—Rev. K. L. Kleveland, pastor. Henry C. Frojen, Martha C. Frojen, Berger O. Frojen, Ragna Swanson, Mabel Bertha Nelson, John Johnson, Charley E. Johnson, Alfred E. Johnson, Olga Enger, Otto Enger and Alfred Welander.
- 1905—Rev. K. L. Kleveland, pastor. Minnie Nelson, Nettie Nelson, Hilda Enger, Minnie Benson, Arthur Erickson, Willie Erickson, Ben Johnson, Agnes Frojen.
- 1905—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Thorval A. Peterson, Alfred J. Anderson, Hjalmer M. Anderson, Erik Olman, Boletha Frojen, Jorgena Marie Storvik, Theresa J. Bergstrom, Alphine N. Storvik.
- 1906—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Severin Pedersen, Andrew Hoybak, Edgar Hoybak, Lilly Hoybak, Fred Low, Lloyd Olderness, Olaf Peterson, Olea Christine Melby.
- 1907—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Norman Melvin Nelson, Olaf Norgren Enger, Johnny Edgar Tollefson, Hilda Johnson, Ida Benson, Bennie Louis Nelson, Mabel Hoybak, Irvin Eugene Madsen and Arthur Hoybak.
- 1908—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Enok A. Frojen, Signa Inga Swanson, Lovisa Amalia Anderson, Emelie M. Storvik.
- 1909—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Clarence H. Enger, George Johnson, Palmer E. Erickson, Roy Henry Erickson, Marie N. Nelson.
- 1910—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Alfred Swanson, Arthur I. Anderson, Julia Frojen, Ole M. Storvik.
- 1911—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. John Benson, William J. Bryan Hoybak, John W. Enger, Gudrun Tollefson, Edna Erickson and Agnes T. Johnson.
- 1912—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Lena Anderson, Dagna Swanson and Carl J. Frojen.
- 1914—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Magda Olea Uglestad, Nina O. Enger, Esther Johnson, Nettie Benson, Jessie Hoybak, Edna Hoybak, Albert M. Enger, Adolph Tollefson and Eddie M. Holm.
- 1915—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Hilda E. Nelson, Agnes O. Benson, Lorain A. Berntson, Michael M. Storvik, John Fred Nelson, Iver T. Thoreson, Clara M. Anderson.
- 1916—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Hannah M. Johnson.
- 1918—Rev. H. Moe, pastor. Erling Anderson, Orville O. Moe, Oscar H. Holm, Arthur Joy Uglestad, Alma R. Frojen, Christine M. Swanson, Dagmar E. Hoybak and Olga B. Frojen.

PERIOD 1921-1939

CHAPTER 3—FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, OAKES

The first meeting called for the purpose of organizing the new congregation was held April 1, 1921. The proceedings preliminary to the organization are quite fully stated in the previous chapter of the Norway Evangelical Lutheran church. Rev. H. Moe acted as chairman. The name First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Oakes was adopted, and the first board of trustees were P. J. Aasen, Albert Romstad and Clarence Salveson, with C. H. Frojen, Ole Olafson and C. J. Anderson for deacons; Ingvald Simmons, treasurer; Thore Bjerklin, secretary, and Mrs. J. H. Lindland, Sunday school superintendent.

A call committee was named, and it proposed that the salary of the minister be \$800 per year. Rev. O. K. Torgerson was called as pastor for the congregation. The matter of completing the organization and

transfer of properties to the new congregation was completed. The matter of the use of English language was discussed and it was decided that Norwegian be used in the morning service and English in the evening and vice-versa the following Sunday. Rev. Torgerson resigned in the summer of 1923.

Nov. 8, 1923, a joint meeting of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes, the English Lutheran Church of Brampton, and Nazareth Lutheran Church of Cogswell represented by delegates was held at Oakes for the purpose of jointly calling a pastor to serve these congregations. It was decided to pay a salary of \$1,500. That of the two congregations where the pastor chooses to reside, pay the amount of \$675.00, and where he does not reside \$475.00, the Brampton congregation \$350.00, the balance, and that if Clement joins the amount they contributed added to the \$1,500. Rev. E. S. Estrem was called as pastor, residing in the Oakes parsonage. While he was pastor, the need for a place to have gatherings was felt, so it was decided to build a hall or bungalow back of the church building, which was done. This was used by the Ladies Aid for their usual gatherings. Rev. Estrem received a call to a larger field in southwestern Minnesota, so resigned in Feb. 1927 after serving three years. Rev. Mithun was called and served for two years, resigning June 26, 1929. In October, 1929 a call was extended by four congregations (Oakes First Lutheran, Cogswell, Brampton and Clement congregations) to Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, of Perley, Minn., which was accepted. Rev. Ronsberg organized a men's club or Lutheran Brotherhood. Supt. E. A. Quam was also active in the Brotherhood and church work and activities. Rev. Ronsberg also was active in getting Evangelist workers to visit the congregation. The church activities increased, also the membership, so that in 1938 there were over fifty families having membership.

It might be proper here to comment on the trend of the economic depression which was one factor, but worse was the severe droughts of 1934, 1935 and 1936 which became so severe that farmers were unable to pay taxes, debts, and many had to get help for necessities. Some of the farmers not being able to raise feed for their livestock had to sacrifice by selling to the government cattle purchase program as the market could not buy the thin cattle. Some farmers therefore were not able to make the contributions and pledges to the church work. Many lost their farms eventually. This continued through the thirties. Most of the people who lived through this period will never forget it.

Thus it seemed hard to get the funds necessary for the annual budget so a deficit developed in 1938. Rev. Ronsberg resigned Sept. 1, 1938. It was in the winter of 1939 that a movement developed to amalgamate or unite with the Salem congregation in Oakes. A general survey amongst the Lutherans of the community was made, so with the survey encouraging towards such a move, a general meeting of the First Lutheran church congregation was held March 8, 1939, when the following resolution was passed: "Whereas the First Lutheran Church has no pastor to serve it at the present time, and Whereas the Salem Lutheran Church of Oakes is also without spiritual leadership, Be it therefore resolved that the First Lutheran congregation of Oakes favors amalgamation with the Salem Lutheran congregation of Oakes. That we instruct our congregational officers to notify the church officials of the foregoing resolution and request their guidance." Dr. F. E. Wolfe, chair-

man of the board of trustees presided. He made a talk on the survey of the church and also on the proposition of amalgamation.

On June 9, 1939 a general meeting of the congregation was held at the church with W. M. Anderson, president of the congregation presiding. Letters from Dr. Stoeve of Fargo (E. L. C. Dist. Pres.) and from Dr. C. C. A. Jensen of the Evangelical Lutheran church were read. A call committee consisting of L. R. Rasmussen, A. B. Carlson, F. E. Wolfe, Clarence Enger and Mrs. Chris Karpen was appointed. The meeting was adjourned to a future date. Again on July 6, 1939, there was a joint meeting of the trustees of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes and of the Salem Lutheran Church of Oakes, and the Clement, Our Savior's Lutheran church. J. Fred Nelson was appointed to act as secretary. Rev. Jensen, at the request of Dr. Stoeve, gave the qualifications of Rev. Daniels and it was suggested by Dr. Stoeve that a letter of call be sent Rev. Daniels by the three congregations. Dr. Stoeve led the discussion as to the amount of salary: Salem Lutheran to give \$600, Clement \$200, and Oakes First Lutheran \$1,000. That Salem would raise \$500 and \$100 from the Mission Board; First Lutheran, Oakes, raise \$900 and \$100 be given by the Mission Board, which was agreed and accepted. Rev. Jensen suggested that the services of Rev. Bostrom of Gwinner be secured until a pastor was secured. A rising vote of thanks was given to Dr. Stoeve and Rev. Jensen. J. Fred Nelson, Acting Secretary.

A congregational meeting of the First Lutheran Church of Oakes was called by the trustees for Sept. 28, 1939. This was a joint meeting with the congregation of the Salem Lutheran church and the Clement congregation. The two congregations met separately in the church. The following resolution was read by Dr. Stoeve from the call committee of both congregations:

"A. B. Carlson made a motion that we recommend to our respective congregations that Rev. T. J. Stolee of Puposky, Minn., be called to be the pastor, seconded by E. P. Dethlefsen." This resolution was carried unanimously. The following resolution was read by Dr. Stoeve from the call committee: "In view of the fact the Salem Lutheran parsonage has been vacated to make room for pastor call and in view of the fact the salaries have already been agreed upon by each parish and which would be difficult to change at this time, be it resolved the original agreement stand." Fred Sletvold moved the above resolution be adopted, which carried unanimously. It was suggested by Dr. Stoeve and discussed that both congregations have joint services with Rev. Bostrom from Gwinner as pastor until Rev. Stolee arrives. J. Fred Nelson, acting secretary. (Rev. Stolee apparently did not accept).

On Feb. 18, 1940 a general meeting of the congregation of the First Lutheran church was held at the church, W. M. Anderson presiding. At this meeting it was decided that the call committee send a call to Rev. Rasmussen of LeRoy, Minn. Upon arrival of Rev. J. M. Rasmussen and subsequently on May 8, 1940 a meeting of the congregation was held as a recessed meeting of Feb. 18. The various matters of reorganization were considered.

(Note: The proceedings from here on are contained in the organization preliminaries of the American Lutheran church, following.)

A general meeting of the First Lutheran church congregation of Oakes (this became the final meeting) was held Aug. 16, 1940. The pur-

pose of the meeting was to vote on the amalgamation with the Salem Lutheran church, and the acceptance of the recommendations and resolutions of the church councils. On roll call vote, 26 were in favor and 11 against, 2 not voting.

Rev. Rasmussen then declared the Salem Lutheran church and the First Lutheran church duly amalgamated, and called a meeting of these two congregations to be held at the Salem Lutheran church Aug. 23, 1940 for the purpose of adopting a new constitution and electing officers to serve the new congregation. Upon suggestion of Henry Frojen, the names of the 57 families which had constituted the members of the First Lutheran church were read by the secretary.

Confirmation Classes and Confirmands, 1921-1939, and Pastors for the Period

- 1923—Rev. O. K. Torgerson, pastor. Irving Colby, Helen Erickson, Bernice Hartman, Hazel Henjum, Bernice Lougsjon, Marie Lindseth, Sigurd Lindseth, Annette Sanders.
- 1924—Rev. E. S. Estrem, pastor. Norma Bakkegard, Arthur J. Bakkegard, Myrtle Solberg, Olaf Kvigne, Goldie Bertina Henjum, Joyce Evelyn Erickson, Maybelle Clarice Kroeger, Thelma May Morgan.
- 1926—Rev. E. S. Estrem, pastor. Amanda S. Carlson, Dorothy M. Hagen, Tillman O. Sanders, Clifford M. Hagen, Alvin John Swanson, Bernice Lillian Lindseth, Bennie Bakkegard, A. Arnold Johnson, Ralph E. Morse.
- 1928—Rev. O. J. Mithun, pastor. Frederick A. Sanders, Elmer Woodrow Lindseth, Chester A. Frojen, Melvin A. Solberg, Sigvard Kvigne, Edwin B. Erickson, Alice V. Hagen, Doris V. Simmons, Selma Evelyn Carlson, Irene M. Swanson, Lillian A. Johnson, Ingrid C. Solberg, Fern V. Andahl.
- 1931—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Vern Sylvester Hagen, Dorothy K. Hall, Oneida Jeanette Ronsberg, Eunice M. Simmons, Margaret E. Solberg, Ivan W. Johnson, Henry P. Brynestad, Oscar I. Brynestad, Robert Nealand Carlson, Edith Corrine Johnson, Gladys A. Bakkegard.
- 1931—Adult Class: Mrs. Elvine Donat Rasmussen, Ada D. Tucker, Jess J. Wood, Gerhard A. Glaser, Inga Elida Barsten, Clara Agnes Low, Mrs. Tina Thompson Henjum, Mrs. Beatrice Myer, Maybelle Caroline Hall.
- 1932—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Thoralf Wiek, Ellen E. Romstad, Alfred N. Romstad, Jay Allen Sanders, Anne Anderson, Arthur B. Carlson, Preston E. Johnson.
- 1932—Adult Class: Carl John Nelson, Emil B. Anderson, John Pete Anderson, Oscar Bernhard Anderson, Carl Albert Anderson, Rose-lind F. Henjum, Geneva Alsene Henjum, Eldora Augusta Uecker.
- 1933—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Lester H. Ronsberg, Beatrice M. Swanson, Andrew Brynestad, Roy K. Solberg, Grace Adair Marvick, Nellie Ruth Backlin.
- 1934—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Yvonne Muriel Johanneson, Alice I. Larson, Alvin Odin Larson, Lawrence R. Johnson, Clarence H. Johnson, Esther Marie Smestad, Alma Olida Braaten, Clarence Enger, Agnes May Brynestad, Clara Hansine Bakkegard, Judith

- H. Henjum, Francis Christine Carlson and Myrtle V. Sanders.
- 1935—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Lois Lorraine Enger, Kenneth O. Frojen, Marvin C. Bottelson, Harold Phillip Frojen.
- 1936—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Margaret Elaine Simmons, James W. Anderson, Ernest Adolph Barsten, Keith Jerome Karpen, Anna Mae Frazier, Lois Yvonne Stenquist, Clayton M. Ronsberg, Marlys J. Livingston, Marcene Yvonne Ploium, Bruce Bjornstad, Beatrice E. Enger.
- 1936—Adult Class: Mrs. Elsie Louise Lindseth, Adelbert Joseph Bunker, Elizabeth Victoria Melby, Carl Edward Donat.
- 1937—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. H. Daniel Frojen, Mary Elaine Jacobson, Lynn Robert Jacobson, Lloyd C. Frojen, Clarence Stenquist, LeVonne Olson, Lois Marie Burrington, Alma Marie Pedersen, Mardell Helen Wiek.
- 1938—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Earl Henry Solberg.
- 1938—Adult Class: Shirley M. Jacobson, Kenneth James Jacobson and Gladys M. Towers.
- 1939—Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, pastor. Alfred Magnus Solberg, James Marion Solberg, Lorraine Almira Burrington, Robert Frederick Anderson, Lila Mae Alden, Genevieve Sanders, Bertha Marie Carlson, Bernice Ada Carlson, Violet E. Lebedoff and Harry W. Kolstad.

CHAPTER 3—FIRST LUTHERAN LADIES AID

When the (Hauges and United church) Norway Lutheran and the Ebenezer Lutheran congregations bought the old Methodist church in 1908 both Aids helped with ample funds. The two Aids although of different synods worked well side by side and even helped each other until in May, 1921 they were united into one group which formed the First Lutheran Ladies Aid.

The Ladies Aid at that time had no building of their own to serve suppers in or hold bazaars. In 1925 the Aid built the ladies hall. Rev. E. S. Estrem was pastor. With the help of the Ladies Aid and contributed labor given by the men of the church congregation and the acumen and skill of Rev. Estrem the hall became a reality within a short time. The Aid alone worked and raised \$800 and the building was paid for in one year. In 1926 the church was redecorated. In 1927 the Aid took a big part in helping with funds to remodel the parsonage, full basement, etc. In 1930 the Aid contributed \$100 to the repairing of the furnace and new heater for the ladies hall. In 1931 the Ladies Aid gave \$200 to paint the church, parsonage, garage and the hall. In 1935 the Ladies Aid was divided into four circles, each group consisting of about ten members, and General Aid was held every sixth week in the ladies hall.

June 27, 1935 was a colorful day in our history when all the charter members of the various original Aids were given a banquet in the ladies hall by younger members of the present Aid. This was a beautiful testimony of showing honor and recognition to these old faithful members of the former Aids. A delightful and appropriate program was rendered, pictures taken and a sumptuous dinner served. The following were the pioneer women who attended the banquet: Mrs. John Benson, Sr., Mrs. Carl Bjerklin, Mrs. Carrie Enger, Mrs. John Erickson, Mrs. Ole Erickson, Mrs. Albert Romstad, Mrs. Jennie Sanders, Mrs. John Olson, Mrs. C.

Storvik, Mrs. O. Frojen, Mrs. C. H. Frojen, Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Henry Gronbeck, Mrs. Carl Hoybak, Mrs. Hans Johnson, Mrs. J. H. Lindland, Mrs. Elling Lindseth and Mrs. Mary Swanson.

The Aid continued its good work. Rev. Ronsberg came in 1930. The membership increased. In 1934 the Aid contributed over \$250 to the various activities including \$175 to the budget. In 1935 for the budget \$250 and \$78 for other purposes. In 1936, \$300 to the local budget and \$226 to other activities. Rev. Ronsberg assisted in arranging for the Bible camp vacation school at Fort Ransom, and for several years the Aid assisted in promoting some of the young girls and boys of the congregation in attending.

CHAPTER 3—FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, OAKES

Officers and Pastors of Congregation

Officers of Ladies Aid

1921—

Rev. O. K. Torgerson, Pastor, Chm.
Thore Bjerklin, Sec.; Ingvald Sim-
mons, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, Albert
Romsdal, Clarence Salveson, Trus-
tees; C. H. Frojen, O. Olafson, Dea-
cons.

Mrs. E. J. Olson, Pres.
Mrs. B. Thompson, V. Pres.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1922—

Rev. O. K. Torgerson, Pastor, Chm.
Thore Bjerklin, Sec.; I. Simmons,
Treas.; P. J. Aasen, John Erickson,
Sigurd Pederson, Trustees; C. H.
Frojen, O. Olafson, Deacons.

Mrs. Bert Thompson, Pres.
Mrs. L. Wold, V. Pres.
Mrs. E. J. Olson, Sec.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1923—

Rev. O. K. Torgerson, Pastor, Chm.
Thore Bjerklin, Sec.; Ingvald Sim-
mons, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, John
Erickson, Sigurd Pederson, Trus-
tees; O. Olafson, Ole Sanders, O.
Buland, Deacons.

Mrs. Bert Thompson, Pres.
Mrs. L. Wold, V. Pres.
Mrs. C. J. Anderson, Treas.
Mrs. E. J. Olson, Sec.

1924—

Rev. E. S. Estrem, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; C. J. Ander-
son, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, John Erick-
son, O. Buland, Trustees; O. Olaf-
son, Ole Sanders, Deacons.

Mrs. Jennie Sanders, Pres.
Mrs. L. Wold, V. Pres.
Mrs. John Olson, Sec.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1925—

Rev. E. S. Estrem, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerk-
lin, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, John Erick-
son, O. Buland, Trustees; O. Olafson,
Ole Sanders, Deacons.

Mrs. John Olson, Pres.
Mrs. C. J. Anderson, V. Pres.
Mrs. E. S. Estrem, Sec.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1926—

Rev. E. S. Estrem, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, John Erickson, Sigurd Pederson, Trustees; Rev. J. H. Lindland, O. Olafson, Deacons.

Mrs. John Olson, Pres.
Mrs. C. H. Hagen, V. Pres.
Mrs. E. S. Estrem, Sec.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1927—

Rev. O. J. Mithun, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; Sigurd Pederson, P. J. Aasen, John Erickson, Trustees; Rev. J. H. Lindland, O. Olafson, Deacons.

Mrs. John Olson, Pres.
Mrs. C. H. Hagen, V. Pres.
Mrs. E. S. Estrem, Sec.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1928—

Rev. O. J. Mithun, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; Sigurd Pederson, P. J. Aasen, John Erickson, Trustees; O. Sanders, O. Olafson, Deacons.

Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Pres.
Mrs. John Harris, V. Pres.
Mrs. O. J. Mithun, Treas.
Miss Lydia Lindland, Sec.

1929—

Rev. O. J. Mithun, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; P. J. Aasen, C. H. Hagen, Sigurd Pederson, Trustees; O. Sanders, Rev. J. H. Lindland, Deacons.

Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Pres.
Mrs. John Harris, V. Pres.
Mrs. O. J. Mithun, Treas.
Mrs. R. P. Wand, Sec.

1930—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; C. H. Hagen, Sigurd Pederson, Henry Frojen, Trustees; O. Olafson, C. H. Frojen, Deacons.

Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Pres.
Mrs. John Harris, V. Pres.
Mrs. Hans Low, Treas.

1931—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
H. C. Frojen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; C. H. Hagen, L. R. Rasmussen, A. B. Carlson, Trustees; O. Olafson, C. H. Frojen, Deacons.

Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Pres.
Mrs. I. Simmons, V. Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. H. Low, Treas.

1932—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
Henry C. Frojen, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; C. H. Hagen, L. R. Rasmussen, A. B. Carlson, Trustees; O. Olafson, C. H. Frojen, Deacons.

Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. H. Low, Treas.

1933—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. Bjornstad, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin, Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I. Simmons, S. Pederson, C. H. Hagen, Clarence Enger, Trustees; Rev. J. H. Lindland, C. H. Frojen, Deacons.

Mrs. I. Simmons, Pres.
Mrs. A. B. Carlson, V. Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. H. Low, Treas.

1934—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. Bjornstad, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin,
Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I. Sim-
mons, C. Enger, C. H. Hagen, Sigurd
Pederson, Trustees; O. Olafson and
Rev. J. H. Lindland, Deacons.

Mrs. I. Simmons, Pres.
Mrs. B. M. Bjornstad, V. Pres.
Mrs. C. H. Hagen, Treas.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.

1935—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. Bjornstad, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin,
Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I. Sim-
mons, C. Enger, F. E. Wolfe, Sigurd
Lindseth, Trustees; O. Olafson and
Rev. J. H. Lindland, Deacons.

Mrs. I. Simmons, Pres.
Mrs. B. Bjornstad, V. Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. C. Karpen, Treas.

1936—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. Bjornstad, Sec.; Thore Bjerklin,
Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I. Sim-
mons, C. Enger, F. E. Wolfe, W. M.
Anderson, Trustees; Rev. J. H. Lind-
land and Ole Bakkegard, Deacons.

Mrs. E. A. Quam, Pres.
Mrs. T. Rehovsky, V. Pres.
Mrs. C. H. Karpen, Treas.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.

1937—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. M. Bjornstad, Sec.; J. Fred Nel-
son, Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I.
Simmons, C. Enger, F. E. Wolfe and
W. M. Anderson, Trustees; Rev. J.
H. Lindland, Berger Frojen, Dea-
cons.

Mrs. E. A. Quam, Pres.
Mrs. T. Bjerklin, V. Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. C. Karpen, Treas.

1938—

Rev. J. O. Ronsberg, Pastor, Chm.
B. M. Bjornstad, Sec.; J. Fred Nel-
son, Treas.; L. R. Rasmussen, I.
Simmons, C. Enger, F. E. Wolfe and
W. M. Anderson, Trustees; Rev. J.
H. Lindland, Berger Frojen, Dea-
cons.

Mrs. E. A. Quam, Pres.
Mrs. T. Bjerklin, V. Pres.
Mrs. L. R. Rasmussen, Sec.
Mrs. C. Karpen, Treas.

PERIOD (about) 1895-1905

CHAPTER 4—SWEDISH FREE MISSION CHURCH

By Julia Dahlbeck

The earliest recollections of the ministerial work of the Lutheran faith that I recall were held by ministers who passed through, sometimes in the Norwegian and sometimes in the Swedish language.

The two earliest resident ministers were Rev. Sjoblom and Rev. Kallberg, each staying a few months. Owing to the very hard times and the early struggles which our fine pioneers experienced, no definite organization was formed other than a Ladies Aid. The services were few and far between and were usually held in the old Presbyterian church. This, I believe, was the first church built. All denominations held services there. As far back as I can remember, we children were enrolled in the Presbyterian Sunday school.

After a few years the Mission Friends, a fine group living around Hample station acquired a church building which I believe was earlier built by the Baptists. They asked the Swedish Lutherans to attend their services and help defray expenses. Two ministers, Mission Friends, a Rev. Johnson and a Rev. Blomberg, served respectively, lived and worked as laborers among the Mission Friends and held services Sundays. This combination lasted about three or four seasons and proved successful, and why not? for didn't both factions use the same beautiful Swedish language? The services and Sunday school were well attended—the church was always full. There were no services during the winter months. I well remember this church, it was located on the lot where Ed Larson now has his residence. The church was painted a dull brown and never saw another coat of paint and was just a shell. My father, because he lived so near had the honor of building the fires. He went early Sunday morning, to heat the church, but no matter how much was put into the heater, it was always uncomfortably cold. There were hitching posts on both sides of the church. Some people came in wagons, some in buggies and usually had some hay for the horses to munch on to keep them contented. We always walked. The sermons were fine and there were a number of fine singers, strumming their guitars with their singing. The late P. E. Peterson was generally the organist until some of us youngsters, after taking some music lessons, could relieve him. Miss Hannah Hample was the superintendent as well as the teacher of the class I was in. I was always very fond of her. As children we always attended the Presbyterian church Sunday school. We still did just that. We first went to the Presbyterian Sunday school in the forenoon, skip home for dinner, then back to the other church as their services were held in the afternoon. One incident stands out quite vividly. Always after each class had finished their lessons they were reassembled for a few general questions covering the subject. Rev. Johnson asked what three disciples seem to be favored by Jesus. He had mentioned Petrus and Johannes. Nobody seemed to know. My sister, not more than two or three, raised her hand. I tried to put her hand down, for surely she wouldn't know. He asked her. She answered promptly, "Jacob." The minister was so thrilled, he picked her up and went down the men's side of the church and asked whose little girl she was. Of course we were all puffed up. When we came home, I asked her how she knew.

"Well," she said, "You know we have an uncle by the name of Peter, and one uncle by the name of Johannes. Since he didn't mention Jacob, another uncle, it must have been Jacob."

We looked forward for weeks to the annual picnic which was usually held either at the Hample's or Johnson's grove, bringing plenty to eat and all were served from the long tables. People from far and near came whether they went to that church or not. After dinner, a program was given by the Sunday school with much singing. There the pioneers greeted people that they hadn't seen for so long. Another outstanding event was the auction sale, the fall auctioning off of all the beautiful articles the ladies had made at their "Kvinne forening" meetings during the year. At their Aid meetings they really served. The money was taken out of the treasury to pay for the goods used and food served at the meetings. Some cut out dresses, others served—everyone was busy. A lot of work was accordingly accomplished. Those were precious memories.

After Rev. Blomberg left there were no more ministers of their faith. The church was vacant for some time. Because of the need for confirmation and the wish to have their own Lutheran service, an arrangement was made with the Gwinner and Milnor congregations to have services every other Sunday. Rev. A. G. Olson was the first pastor, living in Gwinner or Milnor. He held services twice a month, met with the confirmation class and performed other ministerial duties. This was about 1900. This combination lasted for several years until under Rev. Edor Larson, this group became an independent congregation. The services were held in the Mission church for many years until the Swedish Lutheran church was built in 1906 under the direction of C. W. Samuelson who served the congregation for several vacations while a student at Gustavus Adolphus and Theological Seminary at Rock Island. The congregation was formally incorporated by Rev. Montén in 1905. In quest for a suitable name Rev. Montén suggested Salem which means reverence, submission and obeisance to a Higher Power. This was adopted.

During the interim, the Nazarenes became active among the Mission Friends. Some became Nazarenes. The old Mission church was moved to Hample and became known as the Nazarene church. Later the Nazarenes built a church in Oakes. The old Hample church was moved back to Oakes and became the nucleus of the Nazarene tabernacle where the Nazarene's camp meetings are held each summer.

Lastly I wish to pay homage to our pioneers who builded better than they knew. They came here with empty hands. Most of them lived in a dug-out in the side of the hill. There was no Oakes. With oxen and plow they turned the sod. Drought and grasshoppers were common. Where they succeeded in having a crop, perhaps they were visited by hail or grain stacks burned, which happened twice here. Had there been federal aid lavished upon them then as now, I believe they would have spurned it, for they were proud. Many who could, left; those who remained were too poor to do so. They were God fearing, courageous and thrifty and finally little by little they were crowned with success. Surely the germ of the Eternal must have been strong or they could not have accomplished what they did. Today as individuals and members of the American Lutheran church, we must push back our horizons.

By Henry C. Frojen

Along in the late nineties or as late as 1900 the Norway Lutheran congregation west of Oakes, of which Rev. Moe was pastor, made arrangements with the Free Mission congregation, of which Gus Hample was a trustee, for renting of the church building for a few services during the summer months (usually once a month). Besides people in and near Oakes, the Olai Frojen, Hans Nevramon, Alex Swanson, P. C. Peterson, Ed Rasmussen, Iver Olson families, besides my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris H. Frojen and my brothers and sisters usually attended. My folks did not have driving horses but used work horses for the wagon. It had a single box with usually some hay in it and spring seat with boards across for seats for us children. Services usually lasted nearly two hours. Some summers my uncle, Rev. L. H. Frojen who was a student at Augsburg Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, would preach several times during the summer.

Miss Dahlbeck has described the church building correctly. One summer I do remember especially there was gilt or golden lettering on the west wall, "Fraelnsningen aer Fri," in place of the usual altar. "Salvation is Free" was quite impressive. Men sat on the north side of the center aisle and women on the south side, facing west. Sometimes when there were services in the evenings Father and I would walk the railroad track to town. This was with the exception of the Presbyterian church, the first church I can remember attending until the Clement church was built, where I was confirmed, in 1903. Yes, these are precious memories.

CHAPTER 4—HISTORY OF SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1900-1940

By Esther Hazel

In the years of 1900 until 1903, Pastor A. G. Olson, who resided in Milnor, preached in Oakes to the Swedish people. Services were held in the Swedish Mission church which was rented for the sum of 50 cents a Sunday. In 1902 Pastor Olson confirmed the following: Minnie Jensen, Hilda Anderson, Selma Johnson, Edna Christensen, Julia Dahlbeck, Albert Johnson, Andrew Swanson and Hilma Nelson.

In the year of 1904 under the leadership of Rev. Kallberg, the Swedish Lutheran families decided to call a student from Gustavus Adolphus college, St. Peter, Minnesota, to hold services for Christmas. C. W. Samuelson was called.

In January, 1905, at a business meeting of the congregation it was decided to call Mr. Samuelson back for the Easter season and the summer months and to help organize a congregation. He was to be paid \$150.00 for the three months with board and room. In August, 1905, under the leadership of Pastor A. P. Montin of Wheaton, Minnesota, a congregation was organized. Meetings were held in the Swedish Mission church for 50 cents a Sunday rent. A charter was drawn up by Notary Public Stephen Cady, whose services were free.

The charter was as follows:

Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, Salem Church of Oakes, County of Dickey, North Dakota.

State of North Dakota, County of Dickey.

Be It Remembered, That in order to form a Religious Corporation under the Laws of North Dakota, it is hereby declared:

First, The name of this corporation is the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Church of Oakes, County of Dickey, North Dakota.

Second, This corporation is founded for the purpose of maintaining and promoting Religious Worship according to the general usages of Augustana Synod Churches.

Third, The place where its principal business is to be transacted is to be the Town of Oakes, County of Dickey, North Dakota.

Fourth, The time for which this corporation is to exist is not limited but it shall exist perpetually unless dissolved according to law.

Fifth, The number of trustees of this corporation is three and the full names and residences of such officers are as follows: John Nelson, Oakes, N. D., Ben N. Bowman, Oakes, N. D., Nels J. Nelson, Oakes, N. D.

The qualifications of such trustees shall be as follows, viz: They shall be of lawful age. Three of them shall be residents of North Dakota, and two-thirds of their number shall be members of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Salem Church of Oakes, and any trustee or the Board of Trustees shall continue to hold office until his or their successors in office shall be duly elected, unless removed for cause.

Sixth, This corporation has and shall have no capital stock, but is composed of members. In Testimony of the aforesaid, we, the undersigned, have hereto set our hands and seals this twenty-sixth day of August, A. D. 1905.

John Nelson
Ben N. Bowman
Nels J. Nelson

Be It Remembered, That on this twenty-sixth day of August A. D. nineteen hundred and five, before me personally appeared John Nelson, Ben N. Bowman, N. J. Nelson, and Nils A. Anderson, known to me to be persons who are described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument and severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

Stephen Cady, Notary Public

Charter members were Jens Nelson and family, N. J. Nelson and family, Ben Bowman and family, Nils A. Anderson and family, John Gustafson and family, Anton Christenson and family, John Nelson and family, Mons Nelson and family, O. K. Hanson and family, Nels Hanson and family, Pete Nelson and family, Henning Bergren and family, Ben Swanson and family, J. P. Dahlbeck and family, Olaf Anderson and family, Alfred Johnson and family, Fritz Swanson, Lars Hillstrom, and Ole Rosenquist.

The Salem congregation accepted the constitution of the Augustana Synod.

The congregation asked for admittance into the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod.

In August, 1905, Pastor A. P. Montin confirmed the following: Eddie Christenson, Clara Swanson, Albert Swanson, George Nelson, Marie Nelson, Anna Nelson, Henry Hanson, George Hanson, Emil Hanson, John Gustafson, Jr., Nels Anderson, Emilia Iverson, Herman Iverson, Minnie Nelson.

In January, 1906, the annual business meeting of the congregation was held. Deacons elected were John Gustafson, Henning Bergren, Jens Nelson. Trustees elected were N. J. Nelson, John Nelson, Ben Bowman, with John Nelson as church treasurer. The janitor was Martin Nelson. It was decided to pay Pastor Montin the sum of \$10.00 for each time he came to hold services, and to call C. W. Samuelson for the Easter season and summer months for the same salary as the previous summer. Fritz Swanson was elected Sunday school superintendent, and it was decided that Sunday school be held four months of the year. There were 25 children enrolled. Auditors were Henning Bergren, Fritz Swanson, and Otto Nelson.

The treasurer's report for the year January 1905 to January 1906: Income for the year \$265.86. Disbursements \$253.63. Leaving a total of \$12.23.

Ben Bowman reported that nearly \$2,000.00 had been subscribed for the building fund for the church with \$140.00 paid in cash. It was decided to instruct the trustees to collect the rest of the money. It was also decided that if the Swedish Mission church could be bought for \$1,200.00 the trustees were to buy it; if not, they were to buy lots for building a new church. Lots were purchased, Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block of McCarthy Addition owned by Harrison and Bessie Nichols for the sum of \$400.00 on January 29, 1906.

In February, 1906, a special meeting was held and it was decided to build a church for a sum not to exceed \$2,500.00. The church should be 40 feet long, 28 feet wide, walls 14 feet high, steeple 12x12x58 feet high; a chancel on the north end 14x16 feet; foundation of stone 2 feet, and a 14x14 foot basement, 6 feet deep. Pete Nelson, contractor. Ben Bowman, Henning Bergren, John P. Dahlbeck, Nils A. Anderson, members of the building committee. Pete Nelson to draw up plans and furnish material for \$2,150.00, \$500.00 in bonds and \$800.00 when material was on the lot. He was to get the rest when the building was completed, on August 1, 1906.

At a special business meeting in June, 1906, it was decided that the building committee could spend an additional sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for improvements or changes. It was decided that Pete Nelson was to be paid the whole sum of \$2,247.00 for the building of the church, and that the trustees borrow what they could not raise. It was also decided not to call an ordained pastor at present. A motion was made to put hitching posts on the east and north sides of the church and a fence around the church property.

The next special meeting was held September 8, 1906; John Nelson, chairman. Meeting opened with prayer of thanksgiving. Jens Nelson offered to loan the congregation any money needed to pay the contractor. The congregation decided to let the German Lutheran congregation use the church every other week for the sum of 50 cents per Sunday, and they furnish their own lights and fuel.

It was also decided to call C. W. Samuelson for one year, October 1, 1906 to October 1, 1907, for the sum of \$50.00 a month with board and room. Mrs. N. J. Nelson and Mrs. Nils A. Anderson were confirmed in private confirmation in 1905 and 1906. On September 12, 1906, Carl Bowman was the first baby baptized in the new church.

In August, 1907, the first confirmation class in the new church:

Axel Gustafson, Jennie Dahlbeck, Hilma Orn, Adolph Dahlbeck. C. W. Samuelson confirmed this class. He became the first pastor in 1909.

July 10, 1910, Pastor Samuelson confirmed the following: Ida Hanson, Henry Nelson, Mabel Nelson, Carrie Christenson, Fred Orn, Clara Orn, Axel Johnson, Lloyd Alexanderson, Myrtle Anderson, and Mildred Anderson.

Pastor Samuelson served until February, 1911.

In June, 1912, Pastor J. Edor Larson moved to Gwinner and became pastor of the Gwinner, White Stone Hill, Oakes and Fullerton congregations.

In April, 1913, the following class was confirmed: Elizabeth Alexanderson, George Anderson, Hildur Anderson, Mabel Anderson, Edwin Christenson, Andre Dethlefsen, Dethlef Dethlefsen, Anna Gustafson, Ebba Gustafson, Myrtle Johnson, William Johnson, Nettie Nelson, Ebba Nelson, Eva Orn, Oscar Swanson, Carl Schermerhorn, Bernhard Youngquist, Esther Youngquist, Martha Youngquist.

On May 7, 1913, Pastor Larson was married to Miss Alma Larson of Madrid, Iowa. They took a three months leave of absence and went to Sweden to visit Pastor Larson's parents, and S. A. Erling served as student pastor in his absence.

In December, 1916, the following class was confirmed: Nellie Nelson, Swen Anderson, Edwin Hanson, Albin Hanson, George Christenson, Gertrude Anderson, Julia Dethlefsen, and Emil Dethlefsen.

In the year 1918 at the congregational meeting in January, it was decided to build a parsonage and call a resident pastor. Pastor Larson resigned from all parishes and moved to Oakes in the fall of 1918.

July 13 to 15, 1918, the first Luther League convention of the Bismarck district was held in Oakes. Pastor C. O. Solumenson of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, preached the convention address in the M. E. church on Sunday, July 15.

On April 4, 1920, the following were confirmed: Freda Nelson, Esther Orn, Carl Bowman, Rosebud Nelson, Oscar Gustafson, Ethel Nelson, Edna Bergstrom, Ellen Hanson, Gulli Anderson, Annie Anderson.

On September 19, 1920, the congregation celebrated its 15th year. The debt on the parsonage was paid up by the Ladies Aid in 1920, making the church debt free. Services were held in the Swedish language at the morning services and in the English language on Sunday evenings.

Pastor Larson moved to Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, in September, 1921, and Pastor J. A. Mattson of Gwinner served as Vice Pastor until Pastor H. S. Chilgren came in 1923.

In September, 1923, Pastor Chilgren confirmed Carl Vievag, Edwin Gustafson, Evelyn Nelson, Della Nelson, Myrtle Buske, Clifford Buske, Grace Aasen, Emily Aasen; and in July, 1926 he confirmed Hilding Chilgren, Helmer Sletvold, Helen Sletvold, Dorice Nelson, Frederick Sletvold, Esther Nelson, Signe Larson.

Pastor Chilgren became ill and had to resign in 1927, moving to Minneapolis. Pastor S. N. Elvin of Gwinner served as Vice Pastor until Pastor P. A. Zedren came in October, 1929. Paul Swenson served as student pastor from January until October, 1929.

In July, 1931, Pastor Zedren confirmed Alvin Anderson, Ellen Nelson, Ollie Nelson, Dorothy Hanson, Alice Hanson, Inez Sletvold and Elnora Johnson.

In August, 1933, he confirmed Everett Anderson, Earl Anderson, Evelyn Hanson, Emil Nelson, Sylvia Nelson, Alfred Nelson, Dorothy Nelson, Lars Larson, Grace Sletvold, Georgia Rada, Rose Stepina, and Kathryn Johnson.

In 1934 he confirmed an adult class: Miss Esther Anderson and Mrs. Albin Hanson.

In August, 1937, he confirmed Robert Anderson, Ethel Carlson, Clarence Anderson, Gunvor Carlson, Donald Hazel, Mildred Johnson, Wanda Johnson, Goldie Larson, Harold Nelson, Paul Johnson, and Rose Johnson.

In 1932 the Bismarck District Luther League convention was held in Oakes, and again in June, 1937.

On September 11, 1938, Pastor Zedren called a special congregational meeting, handing in a letter of resignation because of ill health. He had already gone to Minneapolis to seek medical aid. Pastor E. E. Bostrom of Gwinner presided at the meeting. The congregation accepted Pastor Zedren's resignation and asked Pastor Bostrom to serve as Vice Pastor until we got a resident pastor. Pastor Zedren passed away Nov. 3, 1938. Pastor Bostrom served us until the Salem Lutheran congregation and the First Lutheran congregation called Rev. J. M. Rasmussen in 1940.

Organists who served the Salem congregation were Henning Bergren, Mrs. Olga Klein, Mrs. Olga Ohman, Mrs. J. E. Larson, Mrs. Eddie Larson, Paul Swenson, Augusta Zedren, Mrs. George Christenson, and Donald Hazel.

Janitors who served the congregation were Martin Nelson, Mr. Moen, Pete Nelson, Herman Ohman, E. W. Peterson, Hilding Chilgren, John Gustafson, Sr., Axel Gustafson, and John Gustafson, Jr.

The Luther League installed the electric lights in the church in 1916.

The Luther League of the Salem church was organized under Student Samuelson. They did much for the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

The Salem Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized by Student Samuelson in the Jens Nelson home, with four members. It grew and did much to help the church work, although there were never more than 24 members and not divided into circles as is the Ladies Aid today. They paid the church parsonage debt and made the congregation debt free in 1920. They made from \$150 a year to \$450 a year, which was a goodly sum before the 1940's.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1923. They met four times a year and had about 14 members. They did work for the Home and Foreign Mission. They dissolved in 1937.

The Young Girls' Missionary Sorosis Society was organized by Mrs. Edor Larson in 1920.

The Junior Mission Band was organized by Mrs. H. S. Chilgren in 1923.

Departed Pastors who have served this church:

Rev. A. P. Montin, born in Sweden, November 8, 1844. Came to America in 1866; was ordained at Vassa, Minnesota, in 1875. He retired from the ministry in 1921. He died December 23, 1928, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He served Oakes from 1905 until 1909.

Dr. P. A. Mattson, President of the Minnesota Conference from 1913 to 1939. Born in Sweden, September 29, 1865. Came to America in 1882. Was ordained at St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1894. Retired in 1939. Died in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 4, 1944.

Rev. A. G. Olson, born in Sweden March 10, 1864. Came to America in 1869. Was ordained at St. Peter, Minnesota, June 10, 1894. Served the Salem congregation from 1900 to 1903. Retired from the ministry in 1929. Passed away in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 14, 1943.

Rev. H. S. Chilgren, born September 15, 1868, at Scandia Grove, Minnesota. Was ordained at Moline, Illinois, June 6, 1897. Served the Salem congregation from 1923 until 1927. Passed away May 21, 1934, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rev. S. N. Elvin, born in Sweden, August 27, 1868. Came to America in 1886. Was ordained in Jamestown, New York, in 1901. Became ill in July, 1932. Retired and passed away in October, 1932. He served the Oakes parish as Vice Pastor from 1928 to 1929.

Rev. J. A. Mattson, born in Sweden, April 30, 1862. Came to America in 1870. Was ordained at St. Peter, Minnesota, June, 1894. Retired in 1938. Passed away at Rock Island, Illinois, July 20, 1943. Was Vice Pastor from September, 1921, until 1923.

Rev. Carl G. Anderson, born April 21, 1885, at Antrin, Pennsylvania. Was ordained June 13, 1913, at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Was Regional Director for the Minnesota and Red River Valley Conferences from 1936 until 1948. Served us before and during the amalgamation. Passed away October 5, 1948, one month after moving to Hoquiam, Washington.

Rev. E. J. Lilydahl of Valley City, North Dakota, served as Vice Pastor from 1911 until 1912.

PERIOD 1940-1951

CHAPTER 5—THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OAKES

By Esther Hazel

My Church

My Church! My Church! I love my Church,
For she exalts my Lord!
She speaks, she breathes, she teaches not,
But from His written Word.
And if her voice bids me rejoice,
From all my sins released:
'Tis through the atoning sacrifice,
And Jesus is the priest.
My Church! My Church! I love my Church,
For she doth lead me on
To Zion's palace beautiful,
Where Christ my Lord hath gone.
From all below she bids me go
To Him, the Life, the Way,
The Truth to guide my erring feet
From darkness into day.

As we celebrate the dedication of the new church, these verses are the sentiment of the people of the congregation. It proves that the faith of the church is still the same; her Christ is still the same; her generations of believers are still the same.

The fall of 1938 the Salem Lutheran congregation and the First Lutheran church were without a pastor, and Pastor E. E. Bostrom was called to be Vice Pastor until a Resident Pastor could be called. Under the direction of Pastor C. C. A. Jenson, the Regional Director of the E. L. C., and Dr. David Stoeve, President of the E. L. C. Synod, together with Rev. C. G. Anderson, Regional Secretary of the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Synod, a church survey was taken, and as the times were hard and the money scarce the churches could not support a pastor for each church. It was decided to call one pastor and amalgamate.

On March 15, 1939, at a special meeting of the congregation it was resolved that the members of the Salem congregation of Oakes "after due consideration believe that an amalgamation of our church with the First Lutheran Church of Oakes would be for the good of both congregations," and they instructed the secretary of the congregation to write Rev. C. G. Anderson to proceed with the work toward that end.

On June 2nd at a congregational meeting of the Salem congregation, A. M. Dahlbeck and E. P. Dethlefsen were nominated to serve on the call committee. On the same date the First Lutheran church appointed A. B. Carlson, Dr. F. E. Wolfe, Clarence Enger, and Mrs. Chris Karpen to serve on the call committee. On July 6, 1939, a joint meeting of the two congregations was held, Dr. David Stoeve presiding. Subject under discussion was the calling of a pastor, his salary to be \$500.00 from the Salem congregation, \$100.00 from the Home Mission Board, \$200.00 from Our Savior's congregation at Clement, and \$900.00 from the First Lutheran congregation with \$100.00 from the Mission Board. Several pastors were called but declined the call. At the yearly business meeting held in the Salem Lutheran church December 4, 1939, Pastor E. E. Bostrom presiding, the meeting opened with song, scripture reading and prayer by the pastor. In his Pastoral report he says concerning services: "The pastor has come to Oakes whenever possible. Pastor C. G. Anderson has also come several times during the year and held services in conjunction with the First Lutheran church, with varying results. We have noticed a lagging in interest and a tendency for each congregation to attend only when services were held in their church. This is not as it should be. No confirmation class was started because it was impossible for the pastor to take on any more work. The Sunday schools, Ladies Aids, and Luther Leagues were continuing their work. We must keep up these organizations that we might have some self-expression in our church. (See page 16 for report of meetings of Sept. 28, 1939, Feb. 18 and May 8, 1940.)

"Much credit should be given to the church board, who have met often to consider the welfare of the church. These are not easy times through which you are going. We have enjoyed the complete cooperation of these men. Our business is before us, let us put ourselves to the task with prayerful hearts that we might do God's will."

Faithfully, Your Servant, E. E. Bostrom.

Student Everett Bexell was called to serve us at Christmas and

again at Easter. On February 18, 1940, a call was extended to Rev. J. M. Rasmussen and he came in April, 1940, to unite the two churches, and through the untiring efforts of Pastor Bostrom and Pastor Rasmussen this was accomplished. On May 7, 1940, the Church Boards of the First Lutheran and the Salem Lutheran congregations met in joint session at the parsonage, and upon a certain motion selected Messrs. Adolph Dahlbeck and Fred Sletvold of the Salem Lutheran congregation, and W. M. Anderson and Dr. F. E. Wolfe of the First Lutheran congregation who, together with the Pastor, Rev. J. M. Rasmussen, were chosen to act as the Inter-Church Board of the Oakes Lutheran Parish, whose duties it should be to work for the merging of the two congregations; to hold properties and memberships in trust for the congregations, until such time as the union of the two congregations was completed; and do any other act or thing for the promotion of good will and understanding between the congregations and aid in every effort in the upbuilding of one strong Lutheran church in Oakes.

Now, since we have for the past several months been privileged to worship together as one congregation in the same church home, in the judgment of this Board the best interests of the two congregations can be advanced better by the two congregations uniting in one and the resources and liabilities of the two congregations turned over to the Inter-Church Board of Trustees of the Oakes Lutheran Parish, to be held in trust by them until such time as the union is completed and officers selected and elected:

Therefore, we, the Inter-Church Board of Trustees of the Oakes Lutheran Parish, RECOMMEND:

1—That the First Lutheran congregation and the Salem Lutheran congregation in a regularly called meeting adopt a formal resolution authorizing its Board of Trustees to proceed with the amalgamation, which is covered by the resolution of the First Lutheran congregation as of March 8, 1939; and of the Salem Lutheran congregation's resolution as of March 15, 1939.

2—We have also given some consideration to what would be the best arrangement for the House of Worship, as well as what to do with the different properties now belonging to the two congregations. We, therefore, further recommend: That in order to make it possible for the new congregation to carry out its program in the community and take care of the increasing activities that must come with an active and growing membership, and due to the fact that the present church plant is very much inadequate for such program and in the interest of the new congregation, we therefore recommend that we move the First Lutheran church building from its present location to the location of the Salem Lutheran church and thus incorporate it into the present church building, through a remodeling project, making for one usable and efficient church building, adding the necessary chancel and basement room commensurate with the project, and as per plan drawn by the pastor.

3—We also recommend that the properties that will not be in use be disposed of and the proceeds thus realized be used to sponsor the above program of remodeling.

4—The Inter-Church Board has also asked the Boards of Trustees of the two respective congregations to meet and appraise the commer-

cial values and the per capita values of the properties now held by the two congregations and report same to this meeting.

It is the hope and prayer of the Inter-Church Board as it presents these recommendations that the two congregations will look favorably upon the recommendations and approve them, so that we can prove to our community and the Lutheran Church in America, yes, and most surely to God Himself, that we are willing as Lutheran Christian congregations to further God's Kingdom and build up in our community an exemplary congregation in true church unity, knowing that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose; all to the glory of God and our eternal salvation.

Signed,

Fred Sletvold
A. M. Dahlbeck
F. E. Wolfe
W. M. Anderson
J. M. Rasmussen

Rev. Rasmussen at this meeting also presented figures of appraisers made by the trustees of both congregations of church properties as follows: Salem Lutheran, church building, \$1,500.00; parsonage, \$2,500.00; total, \$4,000.00, less mortgage \$1,000.00 (net); total, \$3,000.00; 37 families, \$81.80 per capita. First Lutheran, church building, \$1,000.00; Ladies Hall, \$800.00; parsonage, \$1,200.00; total \$3,000.00; 56 families, \$53.57 per capita.

(The attendance at this meeting was not sufficient to get an accurate representative decision by the congregations as to the approval of the inter-church resolution or the appraisals.)

A meeting of the church council of the Salem and First Lutheran church congregations was held in the Salem church on August 8, 1940. Rev. Rasmussen presented the facts leading up to the presentation by the inter-church board of their recommendation as regards amalgamation, both physical as well as spiritual resources of the Salem and First Lutheran congregations. A friendly and favorable discussion followed. Lane Rasmussen moved and Emil Dethlefsen seconded that this church council composed of the Boards of Trustees, Boards of Deacons, the secretaries and treasurers of both congregations, together with the inter-church committee, go on record in favor of amalgamation of the Salem Lutheran congregation and the First Lutheran congregation at this time; and that the two congregations on call of the pastor meet and adopt a new constitution together with election of new officers to serve in the new congregation. Which motion carried unanimously.

Emil Dethlefsen	Fred Sletvold	H. C. Hagen
W. M. Anderson	J. Fred Nelson	Thore Bjerklin
F. E. Wolfe	B. M. Bjornstad	Rev. J. H. Lindland
Andre Dethlefsen	Otto Nelson	Mrs. Henry Frojen
Adolph Dahlbeck	Lane Rasmussen	Berger Frojen

THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A special meeting was held on August 23, 1940, for the purpose of adopting a new constitution and election of officers. Pastor Rasmussen was chairman. The meeting opened with song, scripture reading, and prayer by Pastor Rasmussen. Pastor Rasmussen read the proposed constitution and by-laws. Moved by Dr. Wolfe and seconded by Ben Bjornstad that the constitution and by-laws as read by Rev. Rasmussen be adopted. Vote was taken by roll call, 53 members. The constitution and by-laws were adopted by unanimous vote of the congregation.

Officers elected were:

President, W. M. Anderson; Secretary, B. M. Bjornstad; Treasurer, J. Fred Nelson.

Trustees: For 3 years, Fred Sletvold, Ing Simmons; for 2 years, Henry Hagen, Adolph Dahlbeck; for 1 year, Dr. F. E. Wolfe, Emil Dethlefsen.

Deacons: For 3 years, Andre Dethlefsen, Rev. J. H. Lindland; for 2 years, Lane Rasmussen, Miss Esther Nelson; for 1 year, Mrs. H. Frojen, Otto Nelson.

These officers were to carry over until the 1941 election. Meeting was recessed until August 30, 1940.

Recessed meeting of August 26, 1940 was called to order August 30 by Rev. Rasmussen. The meeting opened with song, reading of Psalm, and prayer by Rev. Rasmussen. Purpose of meeting was stated "What shall be the future of the newly formed congregation? What are we going to do to provide adequate facilities for carrying on the church work?" After discussion it was resolved that the trustees be instructed to ascertain the possibility of obtaining a loan for the purpose of paying for the cost of getting the church building in such shape that it would be adequate and suitable for the new congregation.

On September 2, 1940, the Board of Trustees met and instructed the secretary to write the secretary of state for Articles of Incorporation and to ask the auditing committee for an audit of all the books of the different organizations of the former Salem and First Lutheran congregations. In the fall the installation of a furnace at a cost of \$274.65 for the church was approved. It was decided at a congregational meeting to dispose of the former First Lutheran church property. On November 14, 1940, Pastor Rasmussen wrote a letter to the American Lutheran Conference executive committee as follows:

Gentlemen: We, the American Lutheran congregation of Oakes, North Dakota, an amalgamated congregation of the N. L. C. A., and the Augustana Synod, do hereby through our pastor make our application for membership in the American Lutheran Conference as an active congregation.

(Signed)

The American Lutheran Congregation,
Oakes, North Dakota,
J. M. Rasmussen, Pastor

At a special meeting in January, 1941, it was reported that the First Lutheran church had been sold for the sum of \$500.00 and a motion was made that the Ladies Hall be sold for not less than \$750.00. Motion carried unanimously. We applied for aid of \$100.00 from both the E. L. C. Home Mission Board and the Augustana Home Mission.

At a special meeting in March, 1941, it was reported that the Ladies Hall had been sold for the sum of \$750.00 as authorized by the congregation and it was recommended that we use the money to remodel the church structure. Estimates on Stalite for church with labor for putting it on amounted to \$540.90 and the wiring was \$119.00. Motion was made to use money from sale of Ladies Hall to put Stalite on and rewire the church. Motion carried.

At the yearly business meeting on November 18, 1941, a motion was made to authorize the trustees to refinance the present loan, and borrow enough additional money to repair the church, the sum not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

List of improvements on church in 1940 and 1941 amounted to \$2,688.94: new wood (Stalite) walls and ceiling, colored windows, new light fixtures, and balcony.

In April, 1942, the congregation decided to build a rest room and Sacristy for the sum of \$1,692.02. This included doing over the kitchen also, and a back stairway leading out of basement and Sacristy. Thus our building project was finished under Pastor J. M. Rasmussen's supervision. He also confirmed four adults, namely, Clayton Lanning, Oliver DuRand, Wayne Anderson, and Mrs. Clifford Sanders; and a class of 27 juniors on Easter Sunday morning, April 5, 1942: Chester Johnson, Della Marie Anderson, Lowell Barsten, Thomas Bjornstad, Eva Carlson, James Carlson, Doreen Dethlefsen, Ermagene Dethlefsen, LaVilla Elaine Dethlefsen, Donald Enger, LaVonne Fatland, Dora Frojen, Doris Frojen, Kenneth Groth, Maxine Groth, Audrene Hample, Dennis Hanson, William Hazel, Norma Jenson, William Mangnall, Kenneth Nelson, N. Jay Nelson, Jr., Raymond Nelson, Willis Nelson, Marjorie Olson, Kathryn Quam, Lois Rasmussen.

Pastor and Mrs. Rasmussen were hosts at a breakfast to the confirmation class Easter Sunday. He preached his farewell sermon Sunday, October 25, 1942. Dr. David Stoeve of Fargo met with us, as did Pastor C. G. Anderson during the fall of 1942. We had as our Vice Pastor Rev. K. L. Engstrom of Gwinner. At Christmas time we had Student Allan Johnson from Rock Island, Illinois, and in January, 1943, Rev. S. Tverberg came to serve us as a supply pastor. He confirmed a class of 19 juniors on May 23, 1943: Raymond Griess, Ralph Mangnall, Norman Johnson, Otto Erlandson, Charles Finkle, Wayne Melby, Donald Berger, Inez Rodine, Geraldine Appelquist, Shirley Griess, Arlis Johnson, Clara Iverson, Harriet Dethlefsen, Krystal Kallestad, Anna Marie Gulke, Roberta Grosshans, Shirley Groth, Alice Ploium, Lois Iverson.

At a congregational meeting in April, 1943, the congregation extended a call to Rev. C. O. Hanson of Outlook, Montana. He arrived the last week of May, 1943. On May 28, 1944, Rev. Hanson confirmed a class of 22: Norman Hoaby, Irene Hoaby, Frances Fatland, Richard Fatland, Margy Gramlow, Ruth Johnson, Norann Larson, Marvel Dethlefsen, Carl Carlson, Hannah Mae Carlson, Dorothy Ketterling, Audrey Olson, Shirley Larson, Elsie Larson, Tracy Larson, Roy Swanson, Julius Ketterling, Theodore Rehovsky, Earl Zimbelman, Dorothy Hemquist Anderson, Evelyn Zimbelman, Frieda Ketterling Johnson.

Church mortgage was paid November, 1943, and mortgaged burned February 6, 1944, by Clifford Sanders and Emil Dethlefsen. On May 20, 1945, Rev. Hanson confirmed a class of 16: Lois Marie Sletvold,

Mildred Anderson, Florence Johnson, Janice Gramlow, Lue'lla Olderness, Lorraine Rasmussen, Beatrice Hansen, Norma Larson, Iris Gustafson Larson, Amuel Strutz, James Johnson, Pearl Johnson, Irvin Johnson, Leonard Alden, Marlys Zimbelman.

In August, 1945, the congregation celebrated the fifth anniversary of the congregation. Rev. Hanson compiled a booklet of history, much of which is used in this history.

Pastor Hanson confirmed the following classes:

June 2, 1946: Ralph Lenhart, Orville Olderness, Jeannine Johnson, Beverly Herzog, Arlene Wilberts, Myrtle Fatland, Ione Ketterling, Verlys Melby, Robert Knutson, Marvin Malmberg, Janet Pickell, Betty Hansen.

May 25, 1947: Elaine Alden, Mary Lou Sanders, Annabelle Mangnall, Darlene Iverson, Arlen Dethlefsen, Rudolph Hajek.

March 30, 1947: Emil Barsten.

November 9, 1947: Mrs. Clair Iverson, Mrs. Howard Blazer, Mrs. Dale Johnson, Mrs. Raymond Stroh, Helmer Thompson, Kenneth L. Larson, Raymond Stroh, John Lund, Carl Borden, Robert Johnson.

June 10, 1947: Memorial services were held for Kenneth Projen, John Howard Hansen, and Harold Hall, who died while serving in the Armed Forces. This service was held in the Methodist church.

Rev. Hanson resigned and left in November, 1948 to work with the United Temperance Union at Fargo, North Dakota.

Rev. Kenneth Engstrom of Gwinner was asked to serve as our Vice Pastor until we could get a Resident Pastor. Because of weather and road conditions he was only able to come three times. At Christmas time Maynard Hanson, a senior at Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois was called, and the latter part of January we called Pastor R. C. Cartford, Missionary from Madagascar to be our temporary pastor until in May, when a pastor who had accepted the call was to come. In April, Pastor A. H. Gjevre declined the call and at a congregational meeting April 18, 1948, a call was extended Pastor Cartford by a unanimous vote of the congregation. Pastor Cartford confirmed the following May 30, 1948: Mrs. E. B. Warner, Mrs. Carl Bowman, Mrs. Emmett Haugen, Donald Christenson.

June 27, 1948: Carol Joan Quam, Doris Johnson, Frances Bjerklin, Phyllis Blazer, Janice Rodine, Betty Whitney, Irene Fatland, Dorothy Johnson, Alfred Hansen, Larry Knutson, Donald Pederson.

April 20, 1949: Howard Blazer, Willys Johnson, Orville Olson, Elmer Paczkowski, Clarence Ulmer, Hans Widmer, Mrs. Hans Widmer, Ivan Zimbelman, Mrs. Ivan Zimbelman, Anthony Shockman.

May 29, 1949: Mrs. Emil Isakson, Edgar Zimbelman, Mrs. Edgar Zimbelman.

June 19, 1949: Richard Knutson, James Pederson, Lyle Dethlefsen, George Johnson, Stanley Malmberg.

The Church Year Book for 1948-49 was published in February, 1949.

The congregation decided to do mission work by supporting native pastors—one in Madagascar and one in Africa.

On January 15, 1940, Pastor Cartford confirmed the following: Mrs. Floyd Jodsaas, Charles Volland, Harold Kunz.

January 6, 1950: Mrs. Carl V. Larson.

April 16, 1950: Leslie Hansen, Mrs. Leslie Hansen, Lloyd Hansen,

Donald Lee Hansen, Mrs. N. Jay Nelson, Jr., Victor Ulmer, Oliver Knutson, Mrs. William Randol, Beverly Randol, William Randol, Jr.

May 28, 1950: Marvin Barnes, Darrell Doggett, George Hample, Mrs. Marvin Barnes, Gideon Hample, Sr., Mrs. Gideon Hample, Sr., Gideon Hample, Jr., Harold Konkler, Mrs. Marvin Aarons, Leonard Aarons, Milton Zimbelman.

June 11, 1950: Alice Hansen, Janice Herzog, Bernard Lee Vculek, Jay Dee Wilberts.

At a special congregational meeting March 20, 1950, a discussion of the proposed plan for enlarging our present church structure was voted on by ballot; 73 accepted the plan and 3 rejected the plan. Slides were shown of the blueprints. It was decided to raise as much money toward the Building Fund as possible before starting to build, and borrow the rest. The ground breaking services were held after service on Sunday, July 3, 1950. The building project was not started in 1950 because it became too late in the fall before everything was ready.

Sunday, April 29, 1951, the last services were held in the old church. We thank God indeed for that church which served us so well during a decade.

On Monday, April 30, with Ben Osterberg, contractor, work began by tearing down part of the old church in preparation for building new. Ed Christensen, chairman of the building committee, was along helping from the start. Clifford Sanders was foreman. Harvey Haugen was Mr. Osterberg's assistant. There were 1,923½ hours of donated labor besides pledging, which we all tried to do toward the Building Fund. There has been \$10,113.95 actually paid in cash and labor up to November 1, 1951. Carl Bowman, treasurer of the Building Fund, secured a \$25,000.00 loan from the Lutheran Brotherhood.

For five Sundays we had services in the high school auditorium, and from June 10 until November 10 we held services in the Episcopal church. On June 17, 1951 Pastor Cartford confirmed the following: Cleo Doyen, Donald Knutson, Edna Jodsaas, Vernon Hansen, Ina May Iverson, Mary Lou Mangnall, James Isakson, Kenneth Olderness, Marlene Christenson, Ronald Christenson, Phyllis Thompson.

On Sept. 2, 1951: Cornelia Anne Haller.

On November 11, 1951 we held our first service in the new church parlors in the basement.

The first children to be baptized in the new church basement were Gary, Dale, and Roger Skjefte.

The church fixtures came the first part of December and the varnishing was done. Tile and carpeting were laid. The auditorium was used for the first time for the children's Christmas program December 23, 1951. After the program, Thomas Lee Bjornstad was the first baby baptized in the new church. We held our first service on Christmas day with praise and thanksgiving. On December 30, 1951, Pastor Cartford confirmed the following: Wesley Spear, Mrs. Ole Loz, Mrs. Robert Peterson, Wallace Skjefte, Mrs. Barbara Skjefte, Mrs. Elizabeth Skjefte.

The kitchen was finished in February, 1952, and the tile was laid in the church parlors.

Members of the Church Council for the year 1951 were:

Maurice Johnson	Richard Fatland, Sr.
Mrs. Alfred Westerman	Alvin Anderson
Miss Anna Melby	Lloyd Frojen
Mrs. Hildur Bjerklin	Emil Isakson
Henry Frojen	Fay Sanders
Earl Anderson	Daniel Frojen
Mrs. Clifford Sanders	Mrs. Kenneth M. Larson
Oliver DuRand	Pastor R. C. Cartford
Clifford Sanders	

When Rev. J. M. Rasussen served us from April, 1940 until November, 1942 he had 25 baptisms, 6 marriages, 22 burials.

Rev. Tverberg had 5 baptisms, 5 burials.

Rev. C. O. Hanson had 90 baptisms, 22 marriages, 40 burials from May, 1943 until November, 1948.

Rev. Engstrom had 2 baptisms.

Student Maynard Hanson had 1 burial.

Rev. R. C. Cartford had 104 baptisms, 15 marriages, 33 burials from January, 1948 through December, 1951. There are now 168 families in the congregation and 636 souls.

List of boys and girls in service during World War II:

Pvt. Harold Hall, Gunners Mate 2/c John Howard Hansen, Pvt. Kenneth Frojen, Everett Anderson, B. M. Bakkegard, Ruth Backlin, Ernest Barsten, Lowell Barsten, Robert Battien, Bruce Bjornstad, Thomas Bjornstad, A. B. Carlson, Jr., Bernice Carlson, James Carlson, Edward Christle, Malcolm Campbell, Millard Golie, Oliver DuRand, Clarence Enger, Eddie Erickson, Kenneth Groth, Vern Hagen, Allen Hanson, Donald Hansen, Leslie Hansen, Robert Hansen, Donald Hazel, William Hazel, Oscar Holms, Kenneth Jacobson, Lynn Jacobson, Yvonne Johanneson, Irvin Johnson, James Johnson, Lawrence Johnson, Robert Johnson, Wanda Johnson, Keith Karpen, Julius Ketterling, Kenneth Larson, Alvin Marvick, Alfred Nelson, Emil Nelson, Kenneth Nelson, Fritz Sanders, Jay Sanders, Myrtle Sanders, Grace Sletvold, Helmer Sletvold, Clarence Stenquist, Melvin Thorsness, Forrest Wm. Van Gundy, and Robert E. Anderson.

List of boys and girls in the service at the present time are:

Leonard Aarons, Robert E. Anderson, Donald Berger, L. M. Engen, Harold Konkler, Marvin Malmberg, A. W. Melby, Robert D. Melby, Milton Zimbelman, Luella Olderness and Raymond Griess.

NEW CHURCH STRUCTURES

Thou, whose unmeasured temple stands,
Built over earth and sea,
Accept the walls that human hands
Have raised, O God, to Thee.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The Sunday school was the first organization to amalgamate, doing so in the summer of 1940. Today, in 1951, we have an enrollment of 119 children. We have 11 classes and a Parochial school in the summer for two weeks. Several children in our congregation living at a distance are now participating in Sunday school by mail and radio. A ten weeks Sunday school teachers' course was held by Pastor Cartford these last few years. We thank God for willing and faithful teachers and officers in the fine work of teaching the children the word of God. Esther Nelson is the superintendent.

The choir has a membership of about 33 persons. Our director is Emmett Haugen. This year we have as our project the Organ Fund. We gave five concerts at Christmas time. Our organists are Mary Lou Mangnall and Norma Devick. We sing for each Sunday morning service.

The American Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized in 1940. Mrs. Chris Karpen was the first president. She served two years. The Aid was divided into five circles of twelve members each and two honorary members. The proceeds taken in were divided three ways: one-third to Missions, one-third to the congregation and one-third for any project the Aid members decided upon. In the treasurer's report as of November 17, 1941 to November 17, 1942 the Aid contributed to the congregation \$593.38. In the fall of 1942 the Aid served a smorgasbord and again in 1950. Other presidents who served were Mrs. Oliver DuRand, Mrs. Ted Ramsey, Mrs. George Christenson, Mrs. Nick Vellenga, Mrs. A. W. Hanson, Mrs. C. M. Hagen, Mrs. E. B. Warner, and the year 1950-51 Mrs. Nick Vellenga again served as president and had a busy year. In May the Aid served dinner and lunch in the forenoon and afternoon to about 60 men, who poured cement for the foundation of the new church. This was accomplished in less than one day. When the forms were removed from the foundation, the Aid served dinner again. Mrs. Cartford lent us her kitchen to prepare the dinners, and we served in the yard. Each afternoon through the summer and fall the Aid served coffee and lunch to the men who worked on the church. Last fall the Aid served dinner to the men who plowed the field they are to farm this year. The Ladies Aid has also done much for Missions in the E. L. C. and Augustana Synods. The president for the year of 1951-52 is Mrs. E. A. Quam, and we expect a busy year.

The Junior LDR was organized in about 1939 with Mrs. E. A. Quam as advisor assisted by Mrs. Robert Grosshans and Mrs. Thore Bjerklin. Miss Marjorie Olson was the first president. They have a Missionary project. Mrs. Quam is still advisor for this group.

The Senior LDR was organized in the First Lutheran church and originates from the former Dorcas Society. Today they have a membership of 24 ladies. They have charge of the altar and this past year have made linen towels for each baby baptized. They also support a Missionary for a total of three days in the Missionary-For-A-Day program. They have sponsored several films also.

The Luther League was reorganized by Rev. J. M. Rasmussen. This year they presented the church with a Missal stand. They sponsored a series of five evangelistic meetings by the Rev. Ernest Nelson. They have also sponsored a series of good films. They took subscriptions for

the church papers in October. This year they sponsored the Church Youth paper called "One." Their aim is to get this paper into every church home where there are young people. We thank God for these organizations.

THE MISSIONS

The Mission committee consists of six members and the Pastor. One member from the Sunday school, Ladies Aid, L. D. R., Luther League, Lutheran Brotherhood and congregation. They met four times this past year, had evangelistic meeting with Rev. Gabrielson of Moorhead as speaker from November 11 through the 14th. They sponsored a film, "Thank You For Tomorrow," on November 11. The money the mission committee takes in goes to the support of one missionary pastor in Africa and one in Madagascar. Mrs. Kenneth M. Larson is president this year (1951).

THE LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

"The Brotherhood is an affiliation of local men's groups joined together for the purpose of bringing men to Christ and Christ to men; and of helping one another in its program of promoting the welfare of the church congregation."

The American Lutheran Church of Oakes had a member who aggressively helped pioneer the Brotherhood program on a district and national level in the late E. A. Quam. "E. A." was serving in the North Dakota cabinet as secretary when the decision to establish the office of Rural Life Commissioner was made. Later, acting as Boys Work Director of North Dakota district, he pioneered in the Boy Scout Chaplaincy program and serving on the national committee helped plan and sponsor the "God-Home-Country" Award to qualify 4-H members. A Brotherhood pioneer, he contributed much toward the clarification of the relationship of Scouting and 4-H to the church's youth program.

Like the Ladies Aid of the church, the Brotherhood has assisted the congregation through its special undertakings like "Lute Fisk Suppers," usually an annual event in the fall, and assistance in other ways. The father and son banquets, etc., have helped to promote good feeling and Brotherhood spirit.

In 1949 the lawn improvement project was carried on by the Brotherhood members. The waffle supper, congregational picnic, lute-fisk supper, boys Christmas party were events sponsored. Nine members attended the Brotherhood retreat at Red Willow Lake in July, which is an annual event.

In 1950, the Brotherhood sponsored the Concordia choir concert, and besides the usual projects enumerated previously, films were shown the congregation, materials for church lawn were purchased; \$75.00 to pay on purchase of a piano for the church and a group of 12 boys attended the Red Willow Retreat at Binford, N. D.

In 1951, the Brotherhood sponsored the Augsburg Choral Club concert; they purchased the railing at the church entrance and 12 new banquet tables for the basement. The building account shows \$1,923.50 worth of donated labor by members on the construction of the church, besides much of the labor was not recorded. The Brotherhood also rented 115 acres of land which is to be seeded and harvested in 1952.

The plowing of 90 acres was done in one day under the direction of Earl Zimbelman, who heads the farming project of the Brotherhood.

Our Brotherhood men have shared in the "special" projects by contributing one dollar to Brotherhood builders. Half of this dollar goes to the North Dakota District treasury and half to the national office. The special projects are: the Pension plan; stewardship education among men of the church; boys work carried out as part of the church youth program; the placement service to conserve and extend the heritage we enjoy and to assist in locating our people in communities served by the church; and the post-graduate scholarship promoted to help selected theological graduates study toward advanced degrees in special fields and preparing them for better service to the church.—H. Daniel Frojen.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: The members of the building committee for the year of construction, 1951, were Ed C. Christensen, Chairman; K. M. Larson, Secretary; Otto Nelson, S. E. Carlson, Oliver DuRand, Earl Anderson, Mrs. K. M. Larson, Mrs. S. E. Carlson, and Carl Bowman, Treasurer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The members of the Board of Trustees during the year of construction were: R. M. Fatland, Chairman; Emil Isakson, Vice Chairman; Lloyd Frojen, Secretary; Fay Sanders, Clifford Sanders and Alvin Anderson.

BOARD OF DEACONS (1951): Rev. R. C. Cartford, Pastor, Chairman; Mrs. Clifford Sanders, Secretary; Mrs. Hildur Bjerklin, Earl Anderson, Maurice Johnson, Henry C. Frojen, Oliver DuRand.

OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION: Rev. R. C. Cartford, Pastor; Maurice Johnson, President; Mrs. Alfred Westerman, Secretary; Miss Anna Melby, Treasurer.

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